■ Entertainment / A2-1

PDI on the red carpet, star-studded show, parties, my oh my!

■ News / A2

Electoral tribunal denies Noli's petition to dismiss Loren's protest

■ Business / B5

Cocktales: Inside the Unilab management shake-up

■ Across / A15

Corpus on collision course vs the Lapids over quarry industry

■ Metro / A19

Nida lawyer cautious of third murder witness

It's Muslim against Muslim over PNP terror arrests

By Christian V. Esguerra

NOW, it's Muslim vs Muslim.

A top Islamic police officer yesterday defended the Philippine National Police which is under fire for arresting 17 Muslims for allegedly plotting terrorist attacks, only to free 15 of them for lack of evidence.

IT'S MUSLIM/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

It's in the stars: GMA good for 3 more years

By Nancy C. Carvajal and Christine O. Avendaño

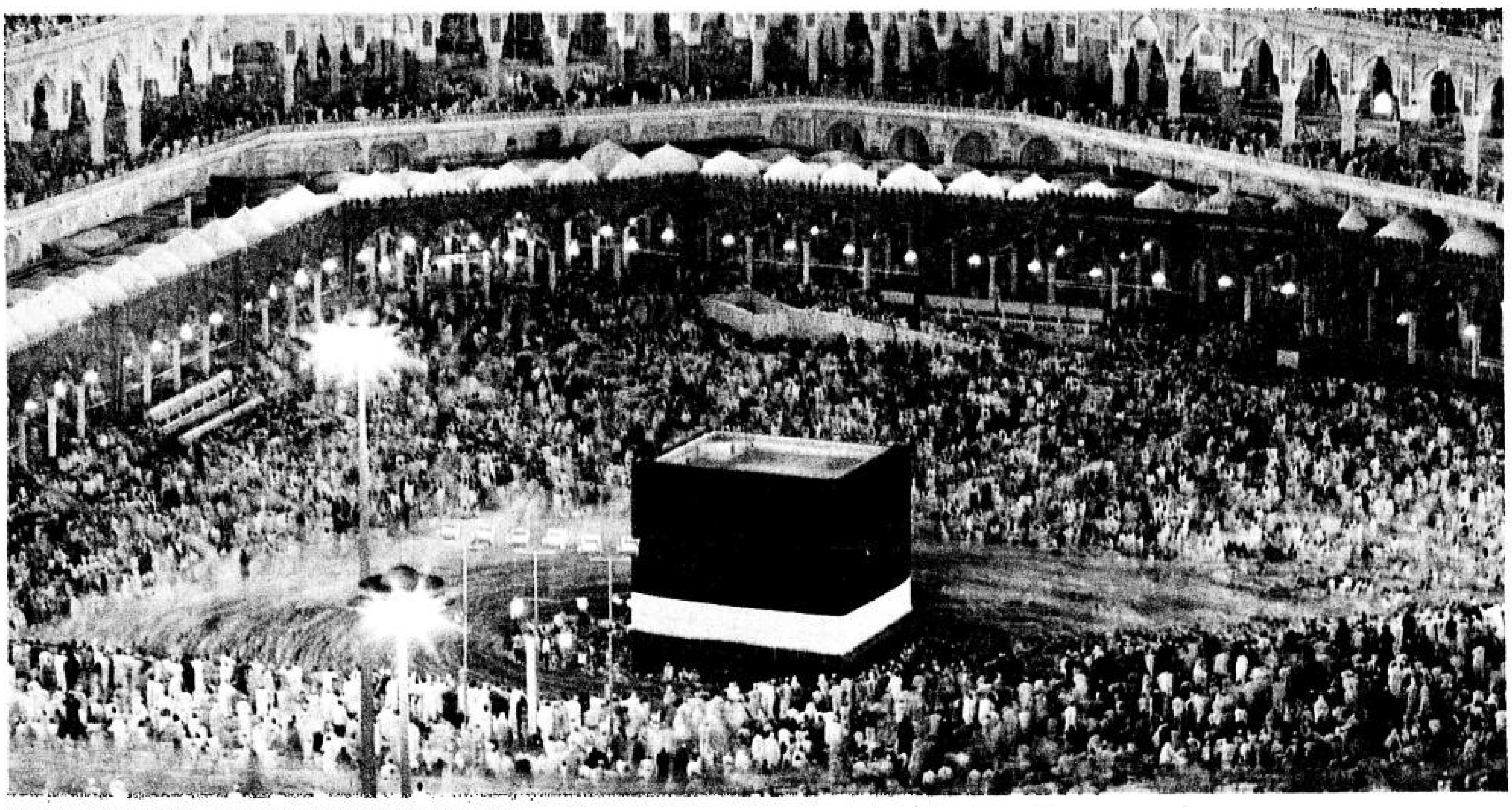
IF THE opposition thinks it could remove President Macapagal-Arroyo from Malacañang this year, it's

IT'S IN/ A6

STAYIN' ALIVE PA RIN!

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Wednesday, January 19, 2005 ★★ 56 pages / 5 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 42 P18
website: www.inq7.net

Fewer Pinoys are hungry



'AT THY SERVICE, OH LORD, AT THY SERVICE'

So goes the continuous chant of Muslim pilgrims (hajis) as they circle the Kaaba, the square stone building at the center of the Grand Mosque, seven times counter-clockwise in Mecca, the holiest site for Muslims, which they must visit at least once in their lifetime.

REUTERS

SWS says drop due to poor's belt tightening

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE RESULTS of a survey showing a drop in the number of hungry Filipino families were a morale booster for an administration hungry for good news.

But the survey results were in turn only a result of further belt-tightening by the poor, said the Social Weather Stations.

It was also an SWS survey that said one in every seven families had nothing to eat at least once last year. It prompted President Macapagal-Arroyo to order a food coupon distribution program for the poor.

Officials initially said the food coupons would be given to five million poor families nationwide. But the number of beneficiaries had apparently been whittled down by the time the coupons were actually handed out.

The SWS has reported that the proportion of families who had nothing to eat at least once in the past three months declined from 15.1 percent during the third quarter to 11.5 percent in the fourth quarter last year.

According to the nationwide survey conducted on Nov. 23-Dec. 2, 2004, the number of families reporting themselves as *"mahirap"* or poor eased from

FEWER/ A18

House OKs fiscal incentives bill; VAT measure next

By Carlito Pablo

FOLLOWING the downgrade of the Philippines' long-term foreign currency debt, the House of Representatives last night passed on third and final reading a revenue measure rationalizing fiscal incentives given to foreign and local investors.

Approved by a vote of 136-26, House Bill No. 3295 seeks to raise P5.3 billion in revenues for the cash-strapped government. Fiscal incentives to certain firms and industries include outright tax exemptions, income tax holidays, tax credits and reduced taxes.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. said the House also planned to pass by next week another revenue measure seeking to jack up the value-added tax (VAT) to 12 percent from the current 10 percent despite objections by certain lawmakers and militant groups.

"We will continue to work for a revenue target of P80 billion [this year]," De Venecia said after emerging from an all-party House caucus that was prompted by the move of global credit rating agency Standard & Poor's cutting Manila's long-term foreign currency rating one notch to BB-minus from BB, and its long-term currency rating to BB-plus from BBB-minus.

President Arroyo asked Congress last year to pass a series of measures designed to raise an additional P80 billion to avoid a fiscal crisis in three years' time. However, only one tax measure on tobacco and liquor products has been passed so far, in what S and P described as a "watered-down version."

Citing the government's failure to improve its financial position and slash its budget deficit of about

HOUSE/ A18

MAKEOVER for Brig. Gen. Carlos Garcia who now sports a goatee while on trial for unexplained wealth at Camp Aguinaldo. *(Story on Page A2.)*

JOAN BONDOC

'Customs loses track of 2,500 cargo containers every day'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

HOW COULD 2,500 containers of imported cargo disappear in the country's major ports every day under the noses of Bureau of Customs officials?

This is what Interior and Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes wants to find out through a thorough audit of the BOC by the National Anti-Smuggling Task Force (NASTF) with the help of the country's leading audit firm, SGV&Co.

"There are too many forfeited, abandoned and seized cargo but customs cannot account for them," Reyes said in a NASTF briefing in Malacañang Monday.

"There are 6,000 container vans coming in just the two ports of Manila every day. Of that, we estimate conservatively 2,500 container vans are seized or forfeited . If we can account for that, we can easily get P2 billion per month," Reyes said.

A container van is seized by the BOC if the goods inside were misdeclared or if no one came forward to claim them.

Taking into account various other forms of illicit trade, Reyes had said previously that the government was losing some P60 billion yearly due to the smuggling of imported commodities.

Reyes said SGV would help make an inventory of all seized or abandoned goods. This would allow the government to establish a system to auction off these goods, thus maximizing the earnings of the BOC.

The BOC's alleged ineptitude in tracking down seized or abandoned goods also prompted Reyes to get the help of the police and the military in securing the smuggled goods that NASTF had confiscated in its "special operations" the past few weeks.

These included 17 luxury vehicles in Cebu and plastic products, cellular phones, farm products and canned goods in other ports in the country.

Reyes said he had also asked SGV for help

CUSTOMS / A6

WWF-PHILIPPINES WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE

TURTLE No. 27961 monitored last week in Davao Gulf, a possible sign that more of this endangered species feed in RP waters this time of year.

Bush $40-M inaugural bash slammed

WASHINGTON—In a blunt message to President George W. Bush just days before his second inaugural, majority of Americans said they believed the war in Iraq was a mistake and they disapproved of his handling of it.

Bush is also drawing heat over a $40-million splurge on inaugural balls, concerts and candlelight dinners while the country is in a somber mood because of the Iraq war and the Asian tsunami.

Bush's supporters plan to celebrate his inauguration with fireworks and three days of parties, including a "Black Tie and Boots" ball and nine other balls.

Critics say the lavish celebrations are unseemly when US troops face daily violence in Iraq and Americans are being urged to donate money to alleviate the suffering in Asia, where the Dec. 26 tsunami killed about 175,000 people.

Companies and individual donors, not taxpayers, are footing the bill for the festivities.

The results of the polls published Tuesday, two days before Bush's second-term inauguration on Thursday, collided with Bush's claim that by reelecting him, Americans expressed support for the war on Iraq.

A Washington Post/ABC News poll showed that 55 percent of Americans felt the Iraq war was not worth fighting, against 44 percent who thought it was.

Respondents also disapproved of Bush's handling of the situation in Iraq by a 58-to-40 percent margin, and 57 percent of the 1,007 adults surveyed by telephone from Jan. 12-16 were not confident that the upcoming elections in Iraq would lead to a stable government.

Similarly, a USA Today/CNN/Gallup poll showed that Americans believed it was a mistake sending troops to Iraq by a 52-to-47 percent margin.

The margin of error for both polls was plus or minus three per-

BUSH/ A18

Satellite tracks down turtle across the world

By Volt Contreras

IT WAS a mere bleep on the computer screen, but it was enough cause for celebration among conservationists and a potential draw for divers and eco-tourists.

A leatherback turtle, identified only by its satellite-tracking device No. 27961, was monitored last week in the Davao Gulf, a possible sign that more of this endangered species are feeding in Philippine waters this time of the year.

World Wide Fund for Nature-Philippines yesterday said the turtle was tagged with the gadget last July in Jamursba Medi, Papua Indonesia, where it last laid eggs.

What brought her here?

"She [was] happily munching on jellyfish. She traveled more than 1,000 km just to eat," said Joel Palma, WWFP's assistant vice president for operations. "There is currently an occurrence of jellyfish in the area north of Sulu-Sulawesi,

SATELLITE/ A18

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Eastern Luzon and Eastern Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/01/19/05

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Loren protest can continue, PET rules

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE PRESIDENTIAL Electoral Tribunal yesterday threw out Vice President Noli de Castro's petition to dismiss defeated vice presidential candidate Loren Legarda's election protest against him.

In a 17-page resolution, the tribunal ruled that Legarda's election protest was "sufficient in form and substantially serious enough on its face to pose [a] challenge to the validity of (De Castro's) title to his office."

The justices of the Supreme Court, constituting themselves as the PET, ordered Congress officials and election officers to ensure the integrity of the questioned election returns and other election documents in preparation for their transfer to the tribunal.

But the tribunal stressed that while the allegations in Legarda's protest were "serious enough," their veracity had not yet been proved.

What the resolution meant was that the tribunal could proceed and give Legarda the opportunity to prove her case, it said.

The tribunal said the protest was sufficient since Legarda had enumerated the provinces, municipalities and cities where she questioned "all the results" in the precinct level.

Legarda had claimed that she was cheated, through "*dagdag-bawas*" (vote padding and shaving) in the election returns from 9,007 precincts in six provinces, one city and five municipalities, and in the ballot results from 124,404 precincts in 44 cities and provinces.

She claimed the results had been "altered, distorted and manipulated" during their transfer from the election returns to the statements of votes (SOV) by precinct, "and/or the subsequent transfer to the municipal/city certificate of canvass (COC); and then from the municipal/city COCs to the SOVs by municipality."

"Thus, she claims that erroneous entries in the SOVs were carried over in the provincial/city certificates of canvass until finally canvassed by Congress or the National Board of Canvassers," the tribunal said.

LEGARDA

The court dismissed De Castro's contention that the tribunal had no jurisdiction over the case and that Legarda's protest was a petition for the declaration of a failure of elections.

The PET said it had the authority to check the correctness or validity of SOVs and COCs.

"The constitutional function as well as the power and duty to be the sole judge of all contests relating to the election, returns and qualifications of the President and Vice President is vested in the PET, (under the Constitution)," the court said.

"It includes, in our view, the duty to correct manifest errors in the statement of votes as well as the certificates of canvass," it added.

The tribunal said that Legarda's protest was not a petition to declare a failure of elections since she had admitted that elections took place on May 10, 2004, and that De Castro was proclaimed the winner in the vice presidential race.

"Given this circumstance, a declaration of failure of elections was out of the question. Thus, the proper recourse for her was to file an election protest," the court said.

"This the protestant did, to ventilate the veracity of her claim alleging election fraud and irregularities of the election conducted in the voting areas cited, and to seek the consequent determination and declaration of the real winner in the elections," it added.

Witness says Garcia deposited P6.5M in savings account

By Alcuin Papa

AN OFFICIAL of the Armed Forces Police Savings and Loans Association (AFPSLAI) testified on the cash deposits and dividends of Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, the former AFP comptroller, at the general's court-martial yesterday.

The prosecution is claiming that Garcia, who is accused of amassing P143 million in unexplained wealth, had not declared his deposits in the AFPSLAI in his Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth.

Garcia is also facing perjury charges before the Office of the Ombudsman.

Rosario Santos, a certified public accountant who is the AFPSLAI finance officer, was asked to testify on a sworn statement she had executed before the Office of the Ombudsman and to the authenticity of the certification that she had issued.

She testified in open court yesterday that she signed a certification on April 27, 2004, which said Garcia had a total of P6.5 million in his account.

She said Garcia opened the account in June 1978.

The account earned a total of P5.8 million in dividends from June 2000 to December 2003, Santos said.

Under questioning by Maj. Serme Ayuyao of the Judge Advocate General's Office, Santos said it was part of her job to issue such certifications.

Santos, who said she was part of the working group of the AFPSLAI board of trustees, also said Garcia had been appointed by the AFP to the AFPSLAI board.

Garcia's lawyer, Constantino de Jesus, objected to the documents that the prosecution showed Santos during the hearing.

De Jesus said neither Santos nor the prosecution had an original copy of the certification and that the documents shown to Santos yesterday were different from those submitted with Garcia's charge sheet.

The lawyer also claimed that the documents were "privileged communication" and were not public documents. Making these documents public would violate the bank secrecy laws, he said.

The prosecution countered that the document they showed Santos and that had been admitted as evidence was a "duplicate copy of the original."

Because of time constraints, court-martial president Maj. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio ordered an adjournment. Santos' testimony will continue on Thursday.

Also yesterday, defense lawyers submitted a motion asking the general court-martial to cite in contempt Commander Primo Repizo (ret.) and to stop any more admission of evidence.

The defense also asked AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu to abide by the provisions of Republic Act No. 6733, which stipulates which government officials are authorized to administer oaths of office.

Miriam leads call for Suu Kyi freedom

AGAINST the advice of the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Senate foreign relations committee chaired by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago plans to pressure Burma (Myanmar) into releasing opposition leaders led by Aung Sun Suu Kyi.

Santiago held a hearing yesterday on Sen. Aquilino Pimentel's privilege speech late last year calling on the Philip pines to oppose Burma's chairmanship in 2006 of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), given the continued detention of Suu Kyi and other political prisoners.

The Philippines is a member of Asean, a regional cooperation organization that also counts as members Burma, Cambodia, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Laos and Vietnam.

Santiago said those who attended the hearing, including DFA officials, were "unanimous" in saying that the Philippines "should take steps to impress upon the government of Burma that we disagree with its national policy, which is oppressive of human rights."

The DFA, she said, wants Manila to approach the problem by using "low politics, meaning to say, cooperation, consensus, constructive engagement, instead of high politics, meaning to say, an aggressive position, attacking directly the human rights violations that we suspect are taking place in that country." *Christine O. Avendaño*

Amok-cop's cohort to be probed, too

KALIBO, Aklan—Police looking into Sunday's murderous rampage of PO1 Jonathan Moreño here are investigating another policeman to find out if he, like Moreño, had received any threat or pressure from suspected drug lord Jose Kim "Boy" Cuadra.

The policeman, PO1 Melton Llanda, was with Moreño when they arrested Cuadra for possession of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) in April 2003 at the airport in Caticlan, Malay.

Moreño and Llanda were both under the Boracay Special Unit and assigned at the airport of Caticlan.

Moreño was a star witness in the case filed by the police against Cuadra. Because of alleged threats to his life, he requested for a transfer. He was re-assigned to the Aklan Provincial Police Office as close-in security of former provincial director Senior Supt. Nemesio Neron and later of acting provincial director Supt. Odelardo Magayanes.

Meanwhile, Llanda was assigned to the headquarters of the Capiz police office, confirmed Senior Supt. Norlito Bautista, provincial director of Capiz.

Western Visayas Chief Supt. George Aliño said questioning Llanda was part of the probe into Moreño's rampage that left seven persons dead—including Moreño—and at least 31 injured.

The police were also looking into the possibility that Moreño was forced to shoot his superior officers—Magayanes, Chief Insp. Manuel Ilejay Jr., Kalibo police chief, and three other policemen—because of death threats from Cuadra's group.

Aliño said another angle they were pursuing was that Moreño held a grudge against his fellow policemen.

Police, however, dismissed the possibility that Moreño was high on drugs when he shot dead five policemen and a 10-year-old girl, Judelyn Cuales. Tests conducted by the crime laboratory found the policeman negative for illegal drugs. *Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau*

Gov't has no intention of paying, says Piatco lawyer

A LAWYER for the consortium that built the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 yesterday accused the government of having no intention of paying "just compensation" for the expropriated facility, going on to claim that this made the takeover of the terminal illegal.

Liwayway Vinzons-Chato, counsel for Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco), claimed that both the budget and finance departments had admitted that government did not have the funds to pay Piatco.

"Knowing fully well that it does not have the funds to pay Piatco the just compensation required by the Philippine Constitution, the government's seizure of Naia Terminal 3 was clearly illegal," Chato told a Manila Hotel press conference.

"Legal expropriation requires full and prompt payment, in cash, of just compensation. The Constitution does not allow a pay-whenable arrangement," she added.

The government moved to seize Terminal 3 last month even though the compensation dispute with Piatco had yet to be settled, saying that the national interest dictated the immediate opening of the terminal.

The terminal has been in mothballs since last year when President Macapagal-Arroyo revoked Piatco's BOT contract with the government. This was upheld by the Supreme Court which voided all government contracts with Piatco.

The takeover was derailed, however, by a Jan. 4 Pasay City court order barring the government from "exercising ownership" until Piatco had been paid and ordering it to make an initial payment of $62.34 million.

The government went to the SC which issued a temporary injunction stopping the lower court from implementing the order.

Chato said that even the Office of the Solicitor General had "confessed" before the SC that the $62 million that the government deposited in the Land Bank of the Philippines was "the totality of the funds the government has available" for the expropriated terminal. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Bare gov't corruption, Chavit dared

By Armand N. Nocum

DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada's defense lawyer, Rene Saguisag, is training his sights this time on Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson for clamming up now after he had earlier said that there was widespread corruption in the Arroyo administration.

In a telephone interview with the INQUIRER, Saguisag dared Singson, who blew the whistle on the multibillion-peso graft allegedly committed by Estrada, to pursue his exposé of alleged corruption in the government he helped install in 2001.

"We all know there's corruption and here is one guy who said he was going to expose [it]," Saguisag said.

Saguisag, however, noted that Singson started singing a different tune after meeting with Ms Arroyo at Malacañang last December.

"[And] after giving some pacifier, he is not now elaborating on her administration's well-known corruption. What did it cost the country?" Saguisag said in a letter addressed to the media on Monday.

Contacted by the INQUIRER, Singson denied that he had made reference to Ms Arroyo when he spoke of graft and corruption. "I did not say that GMA (Ms Arroyo) was involved," he said.

He said he spoke of the graft in some agencies of the government, but cleared the Palace and the First Couple.

Singson explained that if he had discussed the problem of graft, it was in the context of the perjury and plunder case involving Estrada being a "showcase" of the Arroyo administration's fight against corruption.

Singson had strongly opposed Estrada's trip to Hong Kong for medical treatment for fear that the disgraced President would flee from justice. Estrada returned to the Philippines last Saturday after knee replacement surgery at the Adventist Hospital in the former British colony.

Saguisag also challenged private prosecutors to look into the alleged graft cited by Singson, the same way they did in the Estrada case.

Sounds COMPLETELY Amazing.

TEAC 5.1 Home Theater-in-a-Box
Hassle-Free. Fool-Proof. Easy-to-Own.

An amazingly powerful, high-quality
sights & sounds system that's also amazingly affordable,
amazingly easy to set-up.

Dealers are welcome. For dealer inquiries call: Super Manufacturing Inc. (02) 374-35-01 up to 04. NOW AVAILABLE AT: SM OUTLETS Bacoor, Cebu, Fairview, Iloilo, Makati, Manila, Megamall, NE 3, NE Main, Pampanga, Rockwell, Southmall, Sta. Mesa, Davao, Cagayan, Dasmariñas, Batangas WESTERN MARKETING Commonwealth, Farmer's Plaza, Festival Mall, Grand Central, Megamall, Recto, Sta. Lucia, Sta. Rosa ABENSON. NE. Avant, Makati, Alabang, Cainta, Shangri-La. 5TH AVENUE Shangri-La, Makati, Alabang, NE. AVESCO: Frisco, Cubao, Manila PROVINCIAL DEALERS Magic Appliance Dagupan, Magic Nepo Mall, Saver's Mart Balibago, Saver's Mart Olongapo, Saver's Mart San Fernando, Savers Angeles, Tarlac Mac, Tarlac Northern Marketing, Gleen Marketing Tacloban. SOUTH PROVINCIAL DEALERS Gleen Marketing Pagadian, Gleen Marketing Tacloban, Golden Bell Davao, Golden Bell Zamboanga, Golden Bell Cagayan de Oro, Cebu Appliance, Mindanao Solidmark, Proline Electric System.

TEAC
TEAC 5.1 Home Theater System

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Aglipay apologizes to Jinggoy over call

By Christian V. Esguerra

PHILIPPINE National Police Director General Edgar Aglipay has apologized to Sen. Jinggoy Estrada for any perceived discourtesy during a phone conversation prior to deposed President Joseph Estrada's arrival from Hong Kong on Saturday.

But Aglipay maintained that he did not snipe at the senator or slam the phone on him.

"I'm asking for his forgiveness if he thought I did him wrong," Aglipay told the INQUIRER in an interview Monday night. "But my conscience is clear."

The controversy began when the younger Estrada phoned Aglipay from Hong Kong to ask about preparations for his father's arrival.

Aglipay said the senator wanted him to allow the entire welcoming entourage to proceed to the family's vacation house in Tanay, Rizal, to which the former President was to be driven from the airport.

"I told him I couldn't decide at that very moment because I still had to consult the Sandiganbayan and my commanders," Aglipay recalled. "I told him to wait until the following morning."

But an incensed Estrada allegedly demanded that Aglipay decide that night.

"*Ngayon na! Ngayon na* (Right now)*!*" he recalled the senator telling him.

That was when the line was cut probably because of the distance, the PNP chief said.

With the former President safely back in detention, Aglipay said he had no regrets over the strict security measures he had ordered implemented.

"The family should understand that my priority was the former President's safety. Nothing more, nothing less," he said.

Aglipay, meanwhile, is in "superb condition" and the buzz is that he's seeking another six-month term extension.

Aglipay yesterday completed his annual executive checkup at the Makati Medical Center.

He said his doctors told him his health was "superb," that his heart was healthy, and his blood pressure at 120/90 was normal for his age.

"I'm glad I'm healthy despite my heavy schedule," he said in an interview.

The PNP chief said he was surprised by the findings considering the heavy work schedule he had. He said he slept only an average of four hours.

Despite being officially declared fit, the 56-year-old Aglipay doused cold water on lingering suspicions that he wanted to remain as PNP chief until September.

"No more, no more," he insisted.

A top PNP general, a known ally of Aglipay, claimed on Sunday that the PNP chief was lobbying to get a fresh term extension but that Aglipay's request was not granted.

Aglipay was supposed to retire on Sept. 13, 2004, but he was granted a six-month term when he was appointed last Aug. 23.

Pajero proves port exec's undoing

By Armand N. Nocum

A MITSUBISHI Pajero proved to be the undoing of a top official of the Philippine Ports Authority.

PPA Manila Port District Manager Leopoldo Bungubung was sacked the other day for violating antigraft laws, according to Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo.

In a dismissal order dated Jan. 11, Marcelo said Bungubung used his position in the PPA's ports district security bids and awards committee (PBAC) to solicit "cash and a Mitsubishi Pajero from bidders as a consideration for the award of a PPA contract."

Roberto C. Doromal of the Star Special Watchman and Detective Agency filed the complaint claiming that Bungubung and other PPA officials had asked him for *balato* [commission] of up to P20,000 a month in exchange for approval of a security contract.

In 1999, Bungubung reportedly demanded between P40,000 to P50,000 a month from Doromal after the security force was increased to 184 guards at the North Harbor Special Take-Over Unit.

In 2001, the PPA official allegedly asked for P50,000 and a Pajero. Doromal said he and his secretary gave Bungubung P50,000 but failed to deliver the vehicle.

Doromal later found out that the business had been awarded to another agency, Marcelo said, and a late model Pajero had been registered and transferred in the name of Bungubung's son, Norman Vincent, on March 12, 2001.

The Ombudsman said that as head of PBAC, Bungubung was expected to "serve his office with the highest degree of integrity and protect the sanctity of the bidding and awarding procedure within the office."

"Sadly, he was the foremost to tarnish it," Marcelo said.

With an AFP report

It's not just a Credit Card

It's 0% interest on great selections* with Citibank PayLite.

Now available at:

WESTERN

All Out Zero Appliance Exhibit

Entertainment Center, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall
January 4 – February 2, 2005

For inquiries, call 995-9999. To apply for a Citibank Credit Card, call 423-3000 or log on to www.citibank.com.ph.
*0% interest is available on great selections under 3, 6, 9, 12 & 18-month payment terms for a minimum single or accumulated receipt of PhP3,000.
PayLite Installment Plan is available in all Western Marketing Branches.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5196, Series of 2004. See tent card for details.

PayLite INSTALLMENT PLAN

citibank

The 8-Week Guaranteed Fat-Loss Plan

17 JANUARY 133 lbs start at Marie France

4 FEBRUARY Wow! Not bad! 128.5 lbs

25 FEBRUARY 124 lbs!

18 MARCH Yes! 119.5 lbs!

Start the year right by slimming down at Marie France and you'll soon look sexy for summer, without going through the pain and strain of other slimming methods. It's safe and effective weight loss that really works!

Get the body you want for summer: The Marie France Body! Call us today for a FREE consultation.

*Based on random sample of 325 Marie France Makati clients. Results may vary on a case-to-case basis.

Marie France Bodyline™ www.mariefrance.com.ph
CALL 894-BODY (2639)

MAKATI ORTIGAS TIMOG BINONDO ALABANG SHAW CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA • TEL: 961-2981 CEBU • TEL: 233-7637

WELCOME 2005!

UNBEATABLE OFFERS
UNPARALLELED DEALS

APPLIANCE INSTALLMENT SHOWDOWN

GLORIETTA ACTIVITY CENTER
JANUARY 10-25, 2005

FREE! ANSON GIFT CERTIFICATES ON GREAT SELECTIONS

SAMSUNG

PS-42D4ST
- 107cm (42") plasma TV
- DCDi faroudja tab technology process
- Cinema progressive scan
- Versatile connectivity

SP-56L7HRX

SP-54T8HL

SP-61L3HRX
- high definition picture quality
- Anti-glare screen
- Cinema progressive scan

CT-29M20
- Turbo plus sound
- Zoom mode & closed caption

SC-D250

CT-21T20
- 53cm (21") [illegible]
- AV multi-system/stereo
- Turbo plus sound
- Zoom mode & close caption

RT-44MASM

MAX-DJ650

HT-DS420

WA-80R3N

RS-21NCMS

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 5976 Series of 2004

PLUS! A CHANCE TO WIN ANY OF OUR 50 MAJOR AND/OR MINOR APPLIANCES
RAFFLE DAZZLE OF PRIZES

PROMO PERIOD, OCTOBER 1, 2004 - APRIL 30, 2005 SEE POSTERS FOR DETAILS
PER DTI-NCR Permit #1919 Series of 2004

Anson EMPORIUM

WE BEAT ANYBODY'S PRICE!

VISIT OUR BRANCHES AT :
ANSON BUILDING, AYALA CENTER A. ARNAIZ ST., MAKATI CITY
TEL. NOS.: 843-5046 / 892-2206 / 892-1392
3RD FLOOR THE LANDMARK
TEL. NOS.: 810-9990 LOC. 2105, 2107 / 819-1513-14 / 819-1354 / 817-0241
ROBINSONS GALLERIA EDSA NODE LEVEL-3
TEL. NOS.: 632-6479 / 632-6402-05
800 SALAZAR ST., BINONDO, MANILA
TEL. NOS.: 243-2097 / 2432101 / 243-2092
ALABANG TOWN CENTER MADRIGAL AVE., (Beside BPI)
TEL. NOS.: 772-3880-85

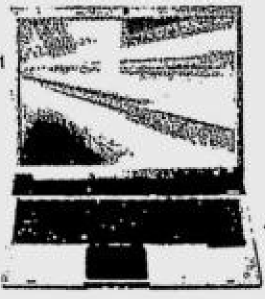
FOR YOUR PERSONAL NEEDS AND CORPORATE TRANSACTIONS,
LOOK FOR DEXTER, TESSIE, FROILAN or DONG
TEL. NOS.: 845-3006-08 / 892-1387 / Fax: 892-1399
ANTHONY & CECILE (THE LANDMARK)
TEL. NOS.: 819-0701 / 819-1354 / 817-0241 OR 16 Fax: 819-0702

Entertainment to go, minus the wires.

intel inside centrino™ MOBILE TECHNOLOGY

Watch a movie on the deck. Download a game and play it in the airport lounge. Add wireless to your entertainment and take it to the limit with your NEO Q-Note based on Intel® Centrino™ mobile technology.

Q-NOTE M360C/M360CB
- Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology
  - Intel® Pentium® M Processor 715 (1.50 GHz, 2MB L2 cache, 400 MHz FSB)
  - Intel® 855GM Chipset
  - Intel® PRO/Wireless 2200BG LAN 3B Mini PCI Adapter
- 256MB DDR Memory
- 40GB Hard Disk Drive
- 14" TFT XGA Display (1024x768)
- Combo DVD + CDRW Drive
- 56K Modem, 10/100 LAN
- 2x USB 2.0, 1 x 1394 Firewire port
- Built-in Webcam*
- Weighs approx 2.75Kg
- Optional 2nd 12 cell battery
- Free Carry Case

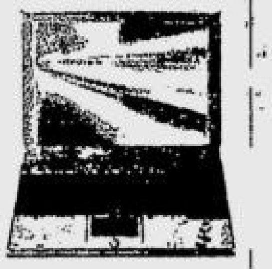


₱63,999

Q-NOTE T210 TABLET PC
- Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology
  - Intel® Pentium® M Processor 715 (1.50 GHz, 2MB L2 cache, 400 MHz FSB)
  - Intel® 855GM Chipset
  - Intel® PRO/Wireless 2200BG LAN 3B Mini PCI Adapter
- 256MB DDR Memory
- 40GB Hard Disk Drive
- 14" TFT XGA Display (1024x768)
- Combo DVD + CDRW Drive
- 56K Modem, 10/100 LAN
- 2x USB 2.0
- 4-in-1 Memory Card Reader
- Built-in Webcam
- Weighs approx 2.6Kg
- Free Carry Case

₱73,999

Q-NOTE M121W/M121WB
- Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology
  - Intel® Pentium® M Processor 715 (1.50 GHz, 2MB L2 cache, 400 MHz FSB)
  - Intel® 855GM Chipset
  - Intel® PRO/Wireless 2200BG LAN 3B Mini PCI Adapter
- 256MB DDR Memory
- 40GB Hard Disk Drive
- 12.1" TFT WXGA Display (1280x800)
- Combo DVD + CDRW Drive
- 56K Modem, 10/100 LAN
- 2x USB 2.0
- Infrared
- Built-in Webcam
- Weighs approx 2Kg
- Free Carry Case



₱74,999

AUTHORIZED NEO RESELLERS :
GMM RETAIL: ARX COMPUTERS 6320579 ⊖ ASIANIC 6830407 ⊖ DIGITAL FOR PLAY 7221908 ⊖ COMPEX 7404658 to 60 ⊖ COMPLINK 6319901 ⊖ E-HUB 6316358 ⊖ PC CORNER 7231718 ⊖ PC EXPRESS 7258888 ⊖ PC QUARTER 7211051 ⊖ PREMIUM PC 9262148 GMM CORPORATE: ASTRAL DATA SYSTEMS 3728917 ⊖ COMPUCARE 7229783 ⊖ COLUMBIA TECH 5240393 ⊖ MICROGENESIS BUSINESS SYSTEMS 8924447 to 49 ⊖ MICROPHASE 7500827 ⊖ MICROPACIFIC 8404563 ⊖ SM EQUICOM 8133801 ⊖ UNISON COMPUTER SYSTEMS 3745888 ⊖ ZENSHIN 3650536 VISMIN : CBX CORPORATION (032) 2314389 ⊖ ELECTROWORLD (032)232-0751 ⊖ DIGITAL INTERFACE (082)2258151 to 52 ⊖ LENTON (032)2530451 to 53 ⊖ MDR MICROWARE SALES (032)2554415 / (032)4124864 to 67 PROV. LUZON : ALL ELECTRONICS (052) 4807544 ⊖ BENERSON (045) 9321585 ⊖ LASER (074) 4425854 ⊖ RCA COMPUTERS (046) 8504034

NEO
OWNING THE FUTURE TODAY

Intel, Intel logo Intel Inside, the Intel Inside logo, Intel Centrino, Intel Centrino logo, Celeron, Intel Xeon, Intel Speedstep, Itanium, Pentium, and Pentium III Xeon are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the United States and other countries.

Wireless connectivity and some features may require you to purchase additional software, services or external hardware. Availability of public wireless LAN access points limited. System performance measured by MobileMark* 2002. System performance, battery life, wireless performance and functionality will vary depending on your specific hardware and software configurations.

FOR COMPLETE PRODUCT INFORMATION, please dial PC-MANIA (632-7262642) / 7260707, email neo@glee.com.ph.
Visit our showrooms, Digital Playground : 4L Cyberzone Bldg B SM Megamall & Gilmore IT Center, Gilmore Ave. cor Aurora Blvd., QC. www.neo.com.ph

---

WOW 2005 EDITION

NEW FEATURES!! ▸ Real Time Scoring ▸ Amateur, Pro or Star Singer Scoring Level ▸ Voice Change Style (Male or Female) ▸ Adjustable Lyric Display ▸ First Lyric Line Display-on-Browse ▸ Song Section Repeat.

WOW! MAGIC SING PREMIUM
Videoke Anytime, Anywhere!

The No.1 Videoke Microphone

WOW T4!
WOW T3!
2005 EDITION
WOW! MAGIC SING PREMIUM
2005 EDITION
WOW! MAGIC SING PREMIUM
VIDEOKE ANYTIME, ANYWHERE!
Wireless Sub Microphone
Duet

Bring me home.

FREE!
Neckphone
Mic Stand
55 WOWPHILIPPINES picture backgrounds
Full color guide to the 55 WOWPHILIPPINES picture backgrounds
BIYAHE Tayo! Bonus song
BIYAHE Tayo! VCD*

*For every purchase of Duet Mic & Tagalog Song chips

AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE AT: Made in Korea by: ET ENTERTECH Co. Ltd.

odyssey MUSIC & VIDEO · Automatic CENTRE · AstroVision · ABENSON · WESTERN · Exclusively Distributed by: in-a-jiffy enterprises www.magicmic.com & G2K Corporation www.wowmagicsing.com · MUSIC VIDEO · SOCO Home & Office Center · ASTROPLUS · AVSurfer · Avid · BRANDS! · TIONGSAN HARRISON · SOLID ELECTRONICS · PACIFIC ELECTRONICS · SANSONIC MARKETING · OHM'S TRADER · Hirosé ELECTRONICS · W & M Marketing · SANTECH ELECTRONIC & MUSIC CENTER · ASSURANCE Merchandising · SIGHTS & SOUNDS Audio / Video · GOLDEN SOUND · The Listening Room · SPECTRA AUDIO VIDEO CENTER · Nintendo · People's MARKETING · Willy and Sons Corporation · ABEN Marketing · BHF · SOLAR SALES CENTER · CSI CITY SUPERMARKET INCORPORATED · ADDESSA CORPORATION · Consumers Appliance Traders, Inc. · EVER APPLIANCE CENTER, INC. · ECHO · ASIAN HOME APPLIANCE CENTER, CO. · REVERB · ROMSTEEL GENERAL MERCHANDISE · ECO-TECH · Cebu Appliance Center · CENTRUM APPLIANCE CENTRUM · Gaisano's · RCS MARKETING · BQ Select Quality Mall · OMI-CLEENT MARKETING INC. · ORO HOLIDAY APPLIANCE PLAZA INC. · QUALITY APPLIANCE PLAZA INC. · SPECIAL APPLIANCE PLAZA INC. · RAINBOW APPLIANCE PLAZA INC. · CENTRAL QUALITY APPLIANCE PLAZA INC · Victoria · DEPARTMENT STORE & SUPERMARKET · BCS MUSIC CENTER · GOLDEN BELL · Mindanao Solidmark, Inc. · BETTER LIVING · MUSICVISION · GUANZON · MA-AN Video & Sounds

Metro Manila Dealers:
Armstrong Gonzalo Puyat Raon, Manila • *Knight Audio Room* Raon Shopping Center, Manila • *Fair N' Square* Escolta St. Binondo, Manila, Nueva St. Binondo, Manila • *Ample* • *Viewplus Appliance* • *Richland Electronics* • *Filgifts* Filipino Merchant Bldg Legaspi Village, Makati City • *Earl Toy World* • *Shop Manila* • *VMZ Business Center* • *Belden Mktng.* • *Jems Appliances* • *Buy Smart* • *Prosound* • *Listening Style* • *Victronics Computers, Inc.* • *Sound Quest Electronic Center* • *Bethel Marketing* • *Belcap* • *Yamaha School of Music* • *Wilsonic Marketing* • *A Plus A* • *Welcome Home Appliance Corp.*

Provincial Dealers: Luzon
TSB Bazaar Baguio City • *Audio Mix* Calansayan, San Jose Batangas • *Joy's Radio Center & Record Bar* • *Ocampos Angeles* • *Ocampos Mega Store* Metro Mall, Poblation, Balanga Bataan, Arthur St. WBB Olongapo City, Dinalupihan Public Market, Dinalupihan, Bataan
Visayas & Mindanao:
Thesson's Marketing Dacuno Bldg. cor Lerma & Panganiban Drive, Naga City • *GC Appliance Corp* • *Sirilitz Consumer Electronics* Cebu City • *R.A. Uy Appliance* • *Fiesta Appliance Center* • *J&R* Nueva St., Cebu City

Pinoy tsunami victims' kin can log on for info

By TJ Burgonio

WITH one click of the mouse, you can get a quick update on the fate of Filipinos who went missing after earthquake-spawned massive waves swamped the southern coast of Thailand on Dec. 26 last year.

The staff at the Philippine Embassy in Bangkok have started posting updates on the list of Filipino tsunami victims on their website, www.philembassybangkok.net, officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs said Monday.

"We're providing all options for the families of missing Filipinos to locate their relatives," DFA spokesperson Gilberto Asuque said.

The department also asked anew the families of seven missing Filipinos to coordinate the collection of their relatives' DNA samples with Sheila Solas of the Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs.

The DNA samples were to be picked up by the National Bureau of Investigation and sent to a Filipino team of forensic experts now in Thailand to facilitate their search and identification of the missing.

Those still missing three weeks after the disaster were Marcela S. Albao, Jasmin C. Barandoc, Gloria Pongco Bauerle, Cruzett Bulaon Cruz, Renato Naval, Gerard Reyes and his daughter Cassandra Szeli Liew.

Also missing were James Brackett, a naturalized Filipino, Nelson Garma, Jay Ocampo and Alexander Latoza, according to Asuque.

So far, only five—workers Kathryn Joy Lomadilla, Ria Jane M. Tuzara and Estelita C. Sales, and tourists Sharleen Ang May Tan and Ivy Catherine Tomenio-Terasaka—had been confirmed dead.

The other day, the daughter of survivor Margaret Ang Choi died in a hospital in Thailand from serious wounds she sustained when wall-high waves slammed houses, hotels and restaurants in Phuket on Dec. 26, officials said.

Isis Gayleen Choi, who turned 10 on Jan. 14, died in the intensive care unit of the Vichara Hospital in Thailand. Since she was a British passport holder, she was not added to the list of Filipino fatalities.

She had been in critical condition since she was rescued, officials said.

JCB CARDS
JCB WORLD PROMOTION
Congratulations WINNERS
TRIP FOR 5
sama ko!...
so happy together
Boracay • Subic
FREE Outing
JCB

1st Raffle Draw Winners (September 16, 2004)
- Boracay Package - Ms. Ma. Cresrica Beniga: Bankard JCB Cardmember
- Subic Package - Ms. Rosemarie Cortes: Equitable JCB Cardmember

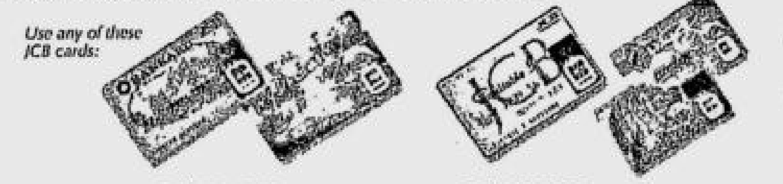
2nd Raffle Draw Winners (October 18, 2004)
- Boracay Package - Ms. Emie Magat: Equitable JCB Cardmember
- Subic Package - Ms. Ma. Elena Buhay: Bankard JCB Cardmember

3rd Raffle Draw Winners (November. 16, 2004)
- Boracay Package - Ms. Hasmin Ortega: Equitable JCB Cardmember
- Subic Package - Ms. Ma. Victoria De Leon: Bankard JCB Cardmember

4th Raffle Draw Winners (December 16, 2004)
- Boracay Package - Mr. Ace Eric Salcedo: Equitable JCB Cardmember
- Subic Package - Ms. Carina Amora: Bankard JCB Cardmember

5th Raffle Draw Winners (January 7, 2005)
- Boracay Package - Ms. Janneth Otadoy: Bankard JCB Cardmember
- Subic Package - Mr. Felix Sebastian: Equitable JCB Cardmember

Use any of these JCB cards:



Call 888-1818

Call 867-7977

See leaflets and direct mail inserts for details.

Per DTI - NCR Permit No. 8576, Series of 2004.

HERBAL Tea
ABS
P10 off

Bilbil Away!

Soothing. Nourishing. Cleansing. Slimming.

ABS We make life better!

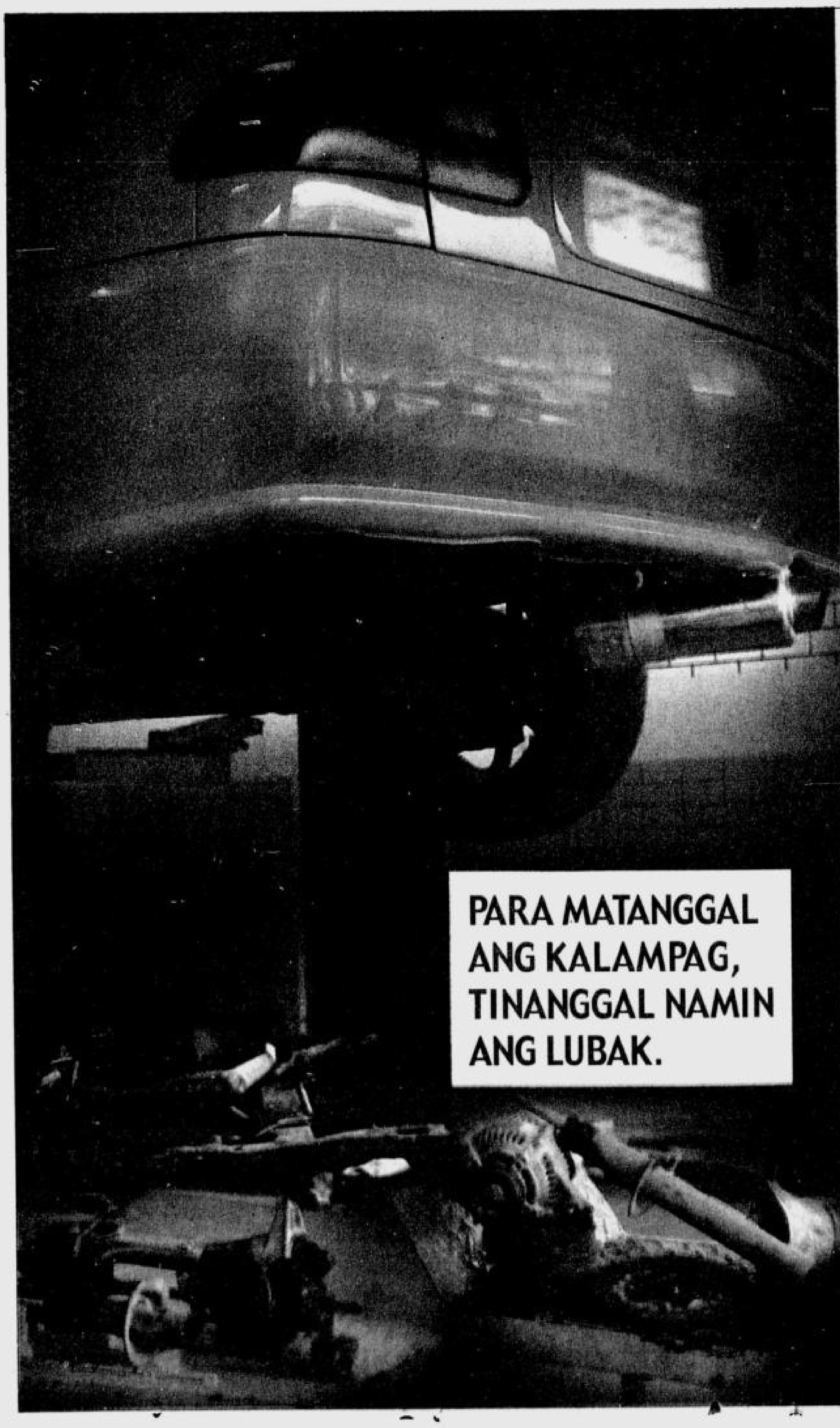
Feel Light, Live Right!

www.abs-herbs.com.ph

☎ 926-3252

Proudly Philippine made!

Available in mercury drug, leading drugstores and selected supermarkets nationwide.



New NORTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY

Maginhawang biyahe, maginhawang buhay.

BAWI KA SA BAGONG NLE!

Magastos ang magpaayos ng sasakyan. Kaya naman, pinakinis na ang daan sa North Luzon Expressway para mas alaga ang chassis, shocks, at iba pang parte ng sasakyan. Sa bagong NLE, mas maginhawa na, nakatipid ka pa!

The new rehabilitated NLE is brought to you by:
Manila North Tollways Corporation

BIR misses 2004 revenue target

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue (BIR), which accounts for two-thirds of the government's total tax take, missed its collection target by 1.3 percent in 2004, according to preliminary data.

The BIR, struggling against corruption in its own ranks and widespread tax evasion, said in a statement its total collections reached P470 billion in 2004, P6.3 billion short of its goal of P476.3 billion.

Even so, the BIR said its 2004 revenues were 10.2 percent higher than in 2003, the strongest growth in six years.

Despite the lower-than-expected revenues, the government expects to beat its budget deficit target for 2004.

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri on Monday said he expected the government's 2004 fiscal shortfall to have fallen below 4 percent of gross domestic product against the target of 4.2 percent.

The government had set a fiscal shortfall goal of P197.8 billion for 2004, after a deficit of P199.9 billion in 2003.

To ease its fiscal burden, the government has sent six revenue-related bills to Congress which it hopes would raise annual revenues by at least P80 billion.

But Congress has so far passed into law only one tax measure—an increase in sin taxes on cigarette and alcohol products.

The perceived lack of urgency in passing the reforms prompted Standard & Poor's to cut its ratings on the country's debt by one notch on Monday, dropping the foreign-currency rating to 'BB-' from 'BB'. The S&P cut, to three notches below investment grade for the country's foreign obligations, came weeks before Moody's Investors Service is expected to deliver its own downgrade on the Philippines. *Reuters*

'Customs loses track of 2,500 cargo container vans daily'

From page A1

in auditing the operations of the Port of Manila and the Manila International Container Services Terminal Inc. to plug the loopholes in its structure and systems.

Reyes said his main goal was to establish a reliable management information system to ensure that data on smuggled goods would be forwarded to the "proper office and proper officer at the proper time" to ensure that the BOC acts promptly on this information.

Smugglers' fronts

Aside from outright smuggling in the country's ports, Reyes said the NASTF was also training its guns on "technical smuggling" perpetrated through custom bonded warehouses (CBWs).

CBW operators are allowed to bring in duty-free imports for processing goods in the country ostensibly to be sold abroad later.

But Reyes said most CBWs had become "fronts for smuggling," diverting goods meant for export to the domestic market without paying duties and also posing unfair trade to local farmers and manufacturers.

Goods going through the CBWs currently account for 70 percent of total imports, or more than double their 30 percent share a few years ago, Reyes noted.

Reyes, who was credited with clamping down on kidnapping syndicates last year and is concurrently chair of the Presidential Task Force Against Smuggling (PTAS), said that "attacking" smuggling was no different from combating kidnapping.

Takes one to know one

"If kidnap victims do not report, how do you develop leads? In smuggling, we also need the victim's cooperation but the BOC has to gain the victims or industries' trust that it is there to help them solve smuggling," he said.

Reyes said smuggling was easier to solve than kidnapping because all companies "know who are the smugglers among them."

With such a campaign, Reyes said he was confident the BOC's collection would increase to P140 billion and P150 billion this year, or 15 to 33 percent more than last year's P122 billion.

With more BOC officials and employees coming out with information, "I think smugglers should start thinking of moving on to another trade," he said.

Main objective

President Macapagal-Arroyo earlier directed the PTAS to assist the customs bureau in combating technical smuggling by tightening the rules on importation and stepping up police work to curb outright smuggling.

Reyes said that the main objective of the anti-smuggling group was to raise revenue targets from P112 billion in 2004 to P138 billion in 2005.

It's in the stars...

From page A1

got another think coming.

That's according to Charlie Chao, a professor of the International Institute of Chinese Esoteric Sciences Studies, who announced at yesterday's Bulong Pulungan Forum at the Westin Philippine Plaza that the President would "still be good for the next three years."

Chao said Ms Arroyo would be able to finish her term. But he said that term started in 2001, when she was sworn into office after the ouster of then President Joseph Estrada.

"The President is still lucky in 2005, 2006 and 2007," Chao said.

He did not answer when asked whether the President would be deposed after 2007.

Chao said the basis of his prediction was Ms Arroyo's chart, made up of her birthday and the time she was born—"on April 5, 1947, at noontime."

Within weeks

Western astrologer Henry Palacios, also a guest at the forum, said that "in the next few weeks, something might erupt, but it will also dissipate after three weeks."

He said the President's moon sign, Libra, and sun sign, Aries, were correlated with the planet Jupiter, which he identified as the sign of luck.

The correlation started last September and will end at the same time this year, he said.

He added that the moon sign Libra was the most elevated aspect of American astrology irrespective of the situations and personalities involved.

Palacios also said the opposition against the President "does not seem to be [of] long standing."

He said that at the moment, the structure of the President's chart depicted opposition within the government.

Entertaining ambitions

But why are the members of the opposition having a hard time getting their act together?

"They are all entertaining ambitions to take over, and that's the bane of the opposition," Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago told reporters.

"Many times it is also the bane of the administration, that nobody is humble enough or group-oriented enough to think of the group rather than of his own ego," she said.

The senator made the assessment after observing that things were "politically quiescent at the moment."

"Many things take place in quietness," she said.

Political frustration

Santiago also noted an apparent "high level of political frustration," particularly among the masses.

She cited the ability of ex-President Estrada to "provoke perhaps a humongous crowd just by his mere presence."

She marveled at the way Estrada "remains to be a player in the political scene" despite being in detention for plunder charges.

Santiago said many current opposition figures had "counted" on Estrada as "a loser" in view of the plunder charges and his supposedly drained financial resources.

Still, she said, Estrada was the leader of the opposition, especially after the death last month of his best friend and opposition standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr.

She also said a divided opposition would benefit the Arroyo administration: "While the opposition is divided, the administration is secure."

Santiago was a stalwart of the Estrada camp when he was President. But she ran for senator under the administration slate in the May elections.

Rift not a priority

Reacting to Santiago's assessment, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. described the opposition in the Senate as "OK."

He said the opposition outside Congress should do its share in unifying and strengthening itself.

Pimentel also told reporters that the minority was not bothered by the worsening rift between opposition leaders Senators Edgardo Angara and Panfilo Lacson.

He said resolving the rift was not the priority of the minority, "as long as we work together and espouse our cause."

He added that there was no need for Angara and Lacson "to love each other."

The other day, Angara demanded that Lacson apologize to the millions of Poe supporters for supposedly causing the latter's loss in the presidential election.

But Lacson said he did not hurt any one and saw no need to issue any apology.

Correction

THE LATE Commodore Domingo Calajate was 69 years old, not 84 as erroneously reported in the story, "Gringo back at the helm of RAM," Page A2, January 18 issue. A 1960 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), Calajate was born on May 12, 1936.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses:glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Raul Palabrica, readers' advocate, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address:rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph.

THE ORIGINAL!
MAGIC SING
VIDEOKE MICROPHONE
1
2005 Edition MAGIC SING XTREME VER3.0
2005 EDITION MAGIC SING XTREME™
PASALUBONG
FREE!
Leatherette Mic Jacket,
Mic Stand, and Neckphone.
Kahit saan ka magpunta, tuloy-tuloy ang saya
with the All-New, All-Original Magic Sing Xtreme!
Manufactured by: ET ENTER TECH CO. LTD. (Korea)

AUTHORIZED DEALERS:

Appliance Center · Ambassador Appliances, Inc. · Anson Emporium · ShopWise · Radio City · Duty Free Fiestamall · PriceSmart · Rustan's Department Store · Precision · Gaisano South Group · Metro · Gaisano · Hotel Rembrandt · Crossings · Sound Dimension Park Square 1 · Ever Department Store · Gillamac's · makro · Mike's Dept. Store · MD Marketing · EMCOR · DEECO · Ocampo's · Conpinco · Magic Appliance Center · Imperial Appliance Plaza · 5th Ave Electronic City

<METRO MANILA>

QUIAPO/BINONDO
Armstrong Electronics 733-2849
Delta Appliances 533-4653
AJD Electronics 736-3880
JMD Electronics 736-3880
Gemetric 314-8871
Joy's Electronics734-1819
Hi-Mark Sales 736-1882
Jems Appliances703-1024
Millennium Electronics
OK Electronic 733-9691
Richland 734-3591

Santech Electronics 734-1821
W & M Marketing 735-4274
Worldwide Audio & Video 241-3446

MALATE / MAKATI /
PARAÑAQUE / MUNTINLUPA
A. Salonga 400-4492
Image Video 525-1015
Sohan Audio & Video Int'l 527-1171
Phasetron Audio Systems 819-7372
M@rs Trading 776-8528
Alabang Marketing 533-4653

<PROVINCIAL>

BAGUIO
Rajat Electronics (074) 444-9340
BICOL
Multibrand (054) 473-7262
CAVITE
V. Divina Enterprises (046) 890-0399
CEBU
A. Salonga (032) 232-5378
M. Miranda (032) 262-3619
DAVAO
Indian Palace (082) 221-2005
ILOCOS NORTE
Ricafort Trading (077) 770-3410

LAGUNA
MSC Data Exchange (049) 562-7172
NEGROS ORIENTAL
Optimum Trader (035) 422-8314
PAMPANGA
Downtown (045) 900-0225
Ocampo's Emporium (045) 963-0084
Ocampo's Jewelry (045) 888-2649
PANGASINAN
Ricafort Trading (075) 522-7112
SOUTH COTABATO
D' Sunata Record Bar (083) 553-5073

Exclusively Distributed by:
THE ASTRA GROUP, INC.
For wholesale & dealership inquiries, dial 722-4056 or 722-8052, or visit us at G/F Richbelt Tower, 17 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
www.astramagicsing.com

18 more Filipinos fly home from Iraq

By TJ Burgonio

EIGHTEEN more Filipinos working in Iraq are being repatriated after they expressed fears for their lives as violence continued to escalate in the strife-torn state in the run-up to the Jan. 30 national elections, officials said yesterday.

The workers, who had obtained transit visas from the Philippine Embassy in Turkey, are expected to arrive in Manila at 7:15 p.m. today, foreign affairs spokesperson Gilberto Asuque said.

They were employed by the SER-KA Group of Companies at one of the United States military camps in Iraq. The workers include Cesar Arana and Ailyn Mateo, who were injured in a bombing in Mosul last year.

"Arana and Mateo were supposed to have been part of the group of 25 OFWs who came home on Jan. 7, but they were said to have been too weak to travel then. They are expected to make it this time with the new group," Asuque said.

Of those coming home, only six completed their contracts with the Turkey-based SER-KA—the rest quit their jobs "due to fear for their security in the workplace," Asuque said.

Last Monday, a suicide car bomb exploded at a police station in Baiji town, killing eight people and wounding 15 others. It was the latest in a series of attacks by militants opposed to the elections.

Some of the estimated 6,000 Filipinos working in several US military installations in Baghdad and elsewhere had started flying back home in batches since December last year in the face of escalating bomb attacks and roadside bombings.

Last Nov. 20, Ambassador Roy Cimatu and some staffers at the Philippine Embassy in Iraq took off for Jordan, fueling speculation they were quitting the country in view of the worsening security situation.

Undersecretary Rafael Seguis, Charge d'Affaires Ricardo Endaya and Labor Attaché Angelo Jimenez were left behind to address the needs of the remaining workers as well as to seek the release of hostage Robert Tarongoy, who was snatched in Baghdad on Nov. 1.

565 suspected Yakuza members barred from RP

By Jerome Aning

MORE than half of the 1,000 foreigners barred from entering the Philippines last year were suspected members of the Yakuza, the Japanese international crime syndicate, according to a Bureau of Immigration report.

Bureau statistics showed that 565 Japanese nationals suspected of being Yakuza members were denied entry last year, sparing the country from the depredations of the organized crime group, the BI said.

Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez said 1,248 persons were refused entry at different ports and seaports as a result of the bureau's intensified campaign against illegal aliens deemed public charges or threats to national security.

Most of the foreigners who were excluded were intercepted at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. The rest had tried to enter through the subports of Mactan, Laoag, Subic and Davao.

Also included in the list were 186 Chinese nationals who were denied entry because they were seen as likely to become public charges, and 67 South Koreans, 62 Australians, 38 Indians, 29 Taiwanese and 18 Sri Lankans.

Except for the Japanese who were profiled as Yakuza members, the other aliens were refused entry either for using spurious and tampered passports, carrying improper travel documents or failure to secure entry visas and return tickets.

A few were denied entry after their names appeared in the bureau's blacklist or watch list while others were considered undesirable for exhibiting arrogant and unruly behavior.

The First Transportation-Oriented Development in the Country

soho central
Right in the middle of it all.

EASY access to transportation

FINE living

Get to Makati and Quezon City right away!
Only 5 minutes by MRT.

The price is right!
Own your unit for as low as P8,000 a month.
5 years to pay.

Soho Central is the ultimate residential condominium. It offers a world of convenience as it rises in the middle of the exciting 24-hectare Greenfield District- a commercial, business and transportation hub at the corner of EDSA and Shaw.

Its enviable address provides residents incredible ease of access to business, shopping, dining and entertainment.

Accesible to the Shangri-la Plaza Mall and the Shaw MRT Station via pedestrian walkways • a short distance away from Megamall, The Podium, EDSA Central Mall, the Shangrila Hotel and Medical City • close proximity to offices, schools, churches and hotels • a short 5 minute train ride away from Makati and 5 minutes away from Quezon City.

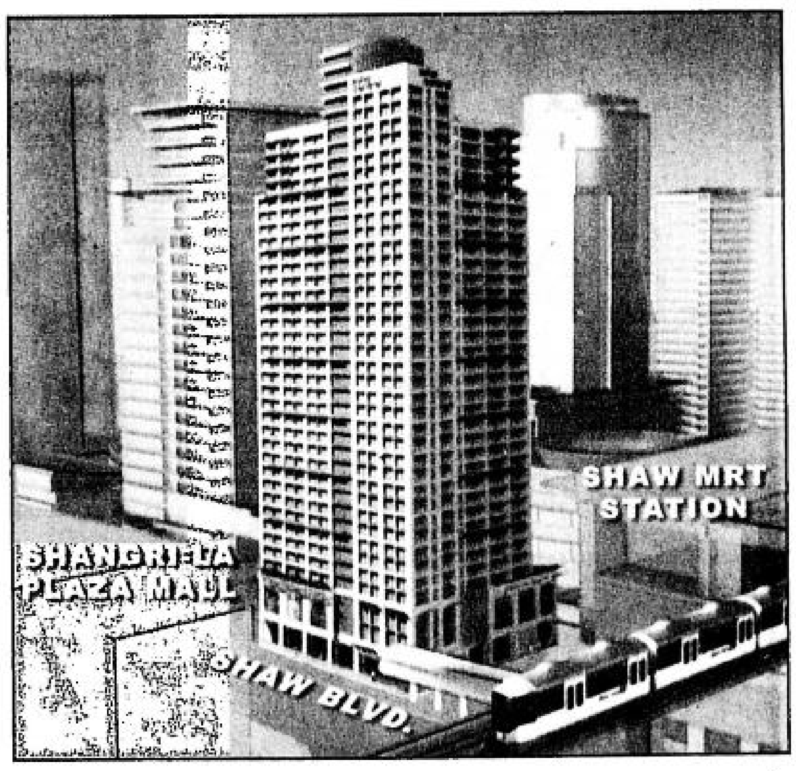
Discover what it's like to have the entire metropolis at your doorstep.

You definitely could not wish for a more mobile and better connected location than Soho Central.

Visit our model unit at the ground floor of the new EDSA Central Mall.

Travel Time via the MRT Network

10 min.
5 min.
4 min.
4 min.
10 min.
4 min.
3 min.
SOHO CENTRAL

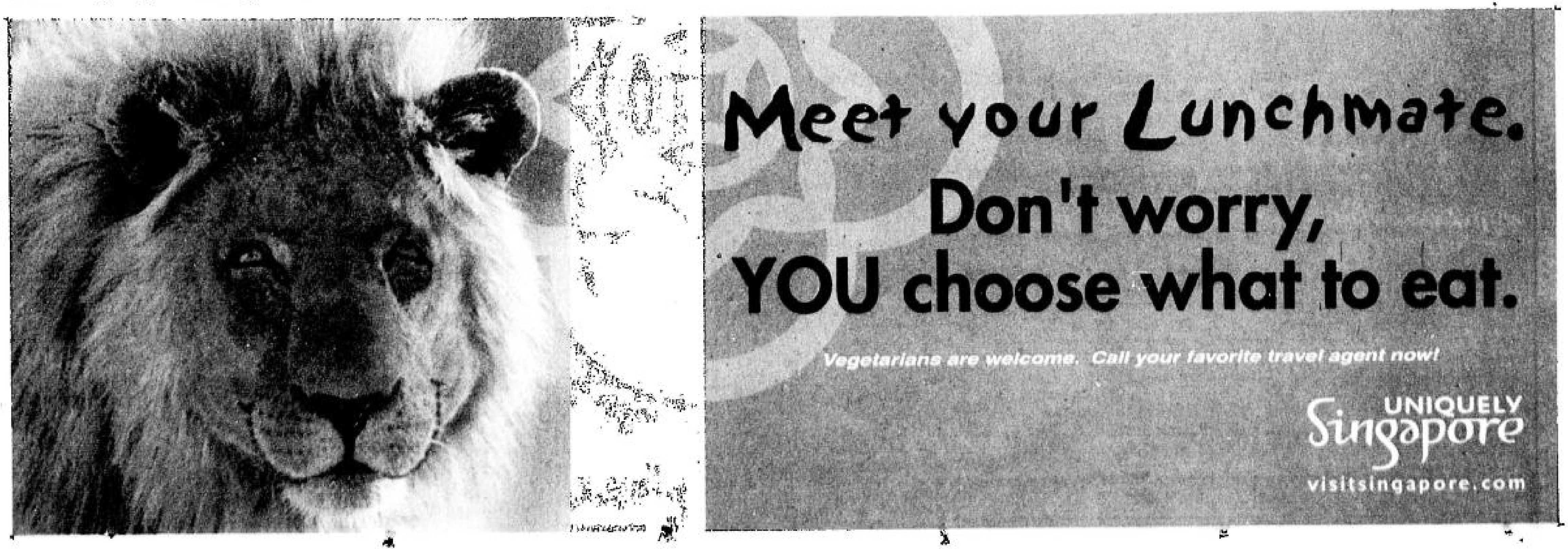


GROUND BREAKING TODAY
Cocktails on Friday, January 21, 2005, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
at the Soho Central model unit EDSA Central Mall,
Mandaluyong City

818-9025 • 893-7050
Visit our website: www.sohocentral.com.ph

Joint Venture Partners: Greenfield Development Corp. MERIDIEN
Project Managers: nova
Exclusive Marketing Managers: CENTURY
www.century-properties.com

*Due to our continuing efforts to enhance the project, the developers reserve the right to change product features, prices and terms without prior notice and approval.


Meet your Lunchmate.
Don't worry, YOU choose what to eat.
Vegetarians are welcome. Call your favorite travel agent now!
UNIQUELY Singapore
visitsingapore.com

It's Muslim vs Muslim over PNP terror arrests

From page A1

"If they don't want to be accused of terrorism, they should not walk the way of the devil," Senior Supt. Sahiron Salim, head of the special Salaam [Peace] police unit, advised fellow Muslims angered by the incident.

The message, he said, was addressed to all Muslims, including the "Balik Islam" or Islamic converts whose ranks had been the target of PNP antiterrorist operations.

'Traitor'

Salim was apparently incensed by persistent accusations that the PNP was concocting bogus cases against Muslims because it couldn't get the real terrorists.

Yusuf Ledesma, head of the Balik Islam Unity Congress, called Salim a "traitor" and demanded the Salaam police unit's abolition.

President Macapagal-Arroyo created the unit to appease Muslims outraged with last year's arrest of a group of Islamic converts allegedly behind the SuperFerry 14 bombing.

"He's a traitor," Ledesma said of Salim in an interview with the INQUIRER. "He's not doing anything to help his people. He might as well be sacked and the Salaam police abolished."

Ledesma cited an instance when Salim allegedly did nothing to help a female Muslim who was purportedly raped by soldiers inside the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo.

No complaint, no action

Citing a medical report, Ledesma said the woman suffered 14 lacerations on her sex organ. A formal complaint was purportedly filed before the Commission on Human Rights.

Salim hit back yesterday, saying his critics were "turning things around."

"I've been telling them to escort the alleged victim to my office so we could file a formal complaint. But nobody's coming," he told the INQUIRER. "How can I help them when all they do is make verbal complaints?"

Without a formal complaint, the Salaam police could not take action, he explained.

"All Muslims should make sure they're walking the path of Allah. If they walk the path of the terrorists, of the communists, they're walking the path of the devil," Salim said.

"Nowhere in the Koran can you find anything which says it's right to blow up a SuperFerry or bomb the Black Nazarene feast, yet things like this happen," he added.

Ledesma disagreed, pointing out that the problem was sloppy police work which resulted in the arrest of innocent Muslims.

Oplan Green Archer

Ledesma, a former De La Salle University professor, is himself a "terrorist" according to the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group's case operation plan "Green Archer."

Prepared by CIDG officer in charge Rodolfo "Boogie" Mendoza, Green Archer was the basis of the PNP's arrest of 17 Muslims during the raid of the Islamic Information Center on Taft Avenue, Manila last Jan. 7.

Only two had been charged, allegedly because guns and explosives were found in their possession. They were soon out on bail.

Donation?

The CIDG also claimed that Ledesma had donated an undetermined amount for a purported plot by Islamic converts to assassinate the President.

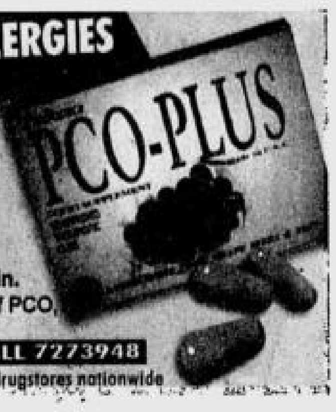
"That's ridiculous," he said of the report. "No wonder so many innocent Muslims get arrested. I won't be surprised if I'm arrested anytime soon."

COPIERS Sales/Rentals
RICOH • Canon • Olivetti • Savin
Also Available : LIQUID COPIERS
BRAND NEW! RICOH FT 3813 BEST FOR BUSINESS
POWDER TYPE FT 3320 15 CPM P15,000. ONLY
P49,900. ONLY
BRAND NEW CANON FC 290 FOR PERSONAL USE
RECON FULL COLOR DIGITAL COPIER P15,000. ONLY
P15,000. ONLY
PARTS & SUPPLIES AVAILABLE FOR MOST COPIER BRANDS!
COPYTRADE®
Copytrade Bldg. 550 MF Jhocson St. Sampaloc, Manila (Beside Nat'l Univ.)
Tels. 749-8155 to 56 781-3472 • 749-8216
www.copytrade.com.ph
• RINGBINDERS • LAMINATORS CUTTERS/BLUEPRINT RISO
• FAX MACHINES ETC
ACCEPT COPIER RENTALS FOR SHORT EVENTS
• BUY TRADE-IN OLD COPIERS

HAVE A COMPETITIVE EDGE!
Study at
VERNON TAPALLA'S
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS and THE WRITING INSTITUTE
Only P2,500 PER COURSE
SCB The Success & Confidence Building Program
CP1 On Speech Improvement, Effective Self-Presentations & Personality Development
CP2 On Grammar & Conversational English
CP3 On Public Speaking & Leadership Training
WP1 On Business & Technical Writing
WP2 On Feature & Creative Writing
JCP On Speech, Grammar, Public Speaking, Confidence Bldg., Personality Dev't.,
+ Reading and Comprehension for kids
PRIVATE TUTORING & CORPORATE TRAINING ARE AVAILABLE
MAKATI - 845-0886 / 753-1049 ALABANG - 753-1048

Discovery Channel, National Geographic and Animal Planet Come Alive!
KENYA SAFARI TOUR
Jan. - Mar. 31, 2005 8 Days Tour
(Every Tue., Fri. and Sat.)
Holyweek "PROMO" Tours
EGYPT - MT. SINAI - HOLYLAND - JORDAN and PETRA
USD 1,578
Departure: Mar. 21, 2005
EUROPE - MARIAN PILGRIMAGE
USD 2,485
Departure: Mar. 19, 2005
Also Available April and May
SPECIAL DEPARTURE!!!
TURKEY & GREECE
"Footsteps of St. Paul"
Departure: Feb. 28, 2005
MEDJUGORJE
with Lourdes & Fatima
Departure: May 12, 2005
TP travelplan, inc.
ESTABLISHED 1968
Tel. Nos.: 523-2157 • 525-4564 • 521-8524 • 524-1409
Fax Nos.: 521-6403 • 521-6680
E-mail: tvplan@skyinet.net

AddHeight Shoes™
INSTANT HEIGHT INCREASE
3"- 4" INSTANT HEIGHT INCREASE
AddHeight® Shoes looks and feels just like ordinary shoes except hidden inside is our patented height increasing innermold.
• Instant Height Increase • Exceptionally comfortable • Virtually undetectable • Lots of styles including dress, casual and sports • Genuine leather • Imported
Available at:
Bradford Shoe Co.
2/F 93 Manunggal St., Tajalon, Q.C.
CALL: 743-9349 or 742-3653



ASTHMA, ARTHRITIS, ALLERGIES
Prevent them with
PCO-PLUS
Antioxidant from grape seeds and skin.
Join the millions of loyal users worldwide of PCO, Grape Seed Extract for Health and Youth.
Made in USA
CALL 7273948
Available at mercury drug and leading drugstores nationwide

510K QUALITEST
The right and precise way for Drugtest.
WORLD CLASS DUAL (METHAMPHETAMINE/MARIJUANA) RAPID DRUG TEST KIT FOR URINE
MANUFACTURED BY A MULTIBILLION DOLLAR RESEARCH LABORATORY IN TAIWAN
ISO 9001 CERTIFIED
THE ONLY ONE PASSED THE U.S. 510K STANDARD
BFAD REG. NO. RR-1464
WORLD CLASS
• DUAL/SINGLE STRIP DROP TYPE
• CONVENIENT VERY EASY TO USE!
• FAST 6 DROPS IN SAMPLE WELL READS IN 30 SECONDS
• 99.9% ACCURACY PROVEN
• COST EFFICIENT AND AFFORDABLE
EXCLUSIVELY IMPORTED BY:
DESMOND TRADING
☎ 724-0118 09209509423/09228011363

Opportunity knocks but once.
JOB Market
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

CISCO SYSTEMS
THIS IS THE POWER OF THE NETWORK. now.
LEARN. now.
Cisco Systems' Industry Seminar Series
Cisco Systems Philippines launches its industry seminar series this January initially targetting three verticals: Education, Government & Financial Services (Banking & Finance).
Learn about the latest technologies and products on networking that include:
- Security
- IP Telephony
- The Integrated Services Router
- Switching
- Wireless
- Data Center Solutions
- Cisco Networking Academy Program (for Education Vertical)
- Multi-Channel Retail Banking & Cisco's Bank of the Future
- Operational Resilience for Banking
- Case studies on successful implementation of networking and IP-enabled technologies in the FSI, Government and Education industries in the Philippines and in Asia Pacific.
Event Details:
- Education: January 19, 2005, 1:00 to 5:30pm. Venue*
- Government: January 20, 2005, 1:00 to 5:30pm. Venue*
- Financial Services (Banking & Finance): January 28, 2005, 1:00 to 5:30pm. Venue**
For more information, please email us at info_ph@external.cisco.com or call 750-5966.
This is a free seminar.
Venue:
* Cisco Systems Office, 24 Citibank Tower, Citibank Plaza, Valero St., Salcedo Village Makati City
** Skytop, Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Makati City
FAX CONFIRMATION FORM Cisco Systems Marketing - Fax: 750-5897
or Email details to events_ph@external.cisco.com
☐ Education: January 19 ☐ Government: January 20 ☐ Financial Services: January 28
Name Designation Email Address
Company Name: ____
Phone Number: ____ Fax Number: ____

BENNY HINN
MIRACLE CRUSADE
3 DYNAMIC SERVICES
February 11-13, 2005
Friday, February 11
Miracle Service / 7:00 PM
Saturday, February 12
Miracle Service / 7:00 PM
Sunday, February 13
Miracle Service / 4:00 PM
Quirino Grandstand, Rizal Park
Watch "This Is Your Day!" on the following stations:
RPN 9: M-F - 9:30am - Manila
MiracleNet: M-F - 8pm - Philippines
BENNY HINN CRUSADE OFFICE
350 Taft Avenue, Ermita, Manila 1000
Tel. No. 303-1598 to 99 • Fax 302-6003
Email: info@bennyhinnmanila.com.ph
Visit us at: www.bennyhinnmanila.com.ph
Taking the message of God's saving and healing power to the world!

TOTAL COMMUNICATIONS PABX

- Call Transfer
- Music-On-Hold
- Call Privacy
- Intercom

AS LOW AS P8,800

INFINITE SYSTEMS Call for FREE DEMO 892-9073 to 77

PREMIER® LCD PROJECTOR

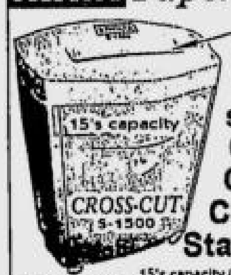
- 1,500 ANSI lumens
- DLP technology
- Compact
- Ultra - light 2.0 kgs

P63,000 ONLY

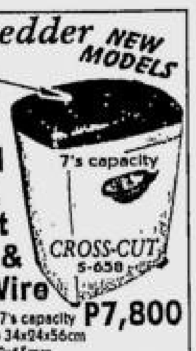
THE ULTIMATE PRESENTATION MACHINE S600

INFINITE SYSTEMS Call for FREE DEMO 892-9073 to 77

IWATA Paper Shredder NEW MODELS



Can shred CD's, Credit Cards & Staple Wire



P8,600 15's capacity (A4/80gsm) 7's capacity P7,800
41x32x62cm (Machine Size) 34x24x56cm
4x30mm (Shred Size) 2x15mm

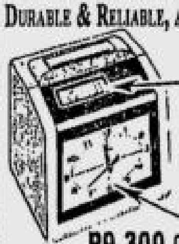
SPL FEATURES: Auto ON/OFF, Paper Jam Reverse Key, Thermal Overload Protection, Infra-Red Sensor for Auto ON/OFF, Auto Shut-Off on Bin Removal, Safety Window

SOLE AGENT: COLENT ENTERPRISE CO.
Suite 900 Del Monte Mansion Building Del Monte Avenue cor 910 Speaker Perez Street, Quezon City
Tels. 410-4317, 740-3815, 742-8138 to 40, 742-8140, 411-2396 to 98
Telefax 411-2395 Fax 411-2399 email colent@pldtdsl.net

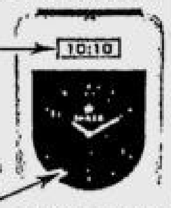
IWATA TIME RECORDERS

DURABLE & RELIABLE, ALMOST 20 YEARS IN THE MARKET NOW

FREE DEMO



Digital Clock
Operates during brownouts
Uses 6 Columns Time Card
Analog Clock



P9,300.00 MODEL: CH-1A

P9,500 = E2A 2color printing Red for Late Black for Punctual

P12,850.00 MODEL: CW-1A

E2A 2Color & CH-1A /CW-1A 1Color Printing, Programmable Alarm, Memory & Battery Back-Up for brown-out use, Mark printing for Late & O.T., Dual Time Display, Perpetual Calendar

VERY HEAVY DUTY
SOLE DIST.:
COLENT ENTERPRISE CO.
Tels. 412-4317, 740-3815, 742-8139 to 42, 411-2396 to 98
Fax 411-2399 E-mail: colent@sfi.com.ph

KICK-OFF BARGAIN!

BINDING MACHINE PUNCH 25 SHEETS; 24 HOLES (14 inches) ONLY P13,998

LAMINATOR ONLY P6,188 METAL CASE; A3 size-13 inches

SNOW-CUT SHREDDER SHRED SIZE: 2 X 2 MM ONLY P7,777

HEAVY DUTY PUNCHER PUNCHES UP TO 500 SHEETS ONLY P6,398

ONLY P21,998 BILL COUNTER HIGH SPEED: WITH UV COUNTERFEIT DETECTOR

ONLY P3,998 CROSS-CUT SHREDDER

CALL NOW AT:
8905310 • 8905320
8905327 • 8967764
8983431 • 8983432

E-mail ad.: inquire_dlink@yahoo.com
Website: www.e-davidlink.com

For renewed life, join
THE MOST INSPIRING PILGRIMAGE
with Rev. Fr. Consie Legaspi as Chaplain

Our Lady of Lourdes

Our Lady of Fatima

Sacred Heart of Jesus

LOURDES, FATIMA, PARAY LE MONIAL
Loyola, La Salette, Lisieux, Nevers, Paris,
Madrid. Avila. Lisbon, Burgos, Salamanca
PACKAGE PRICE: $2,860 (April 15 - 28, 2005)
For more details, pls. call:
SALVE 829-9613 / 0917-4110154
Fax: 828-2019
Operated by Adam's Express Travel Agency
LIMITED SLOTS AVAILABLE

Opportunity knocks but once.

JOB Market

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

BEST and AFFORDABLE DEALS for 2005

OWN A FORD LYNX 1.6 GSI

for as low as
65K D.P. MT • 70K D.P. AT

P 13,542 MONTHLY!!!

HOTLINES:
0921-4826675 • 0915-4406054 • 0921-4826613

An Invitation To A
PILGRIMAGE TO

GUADALUPE

plus LOS ANGELES, U.S.A.

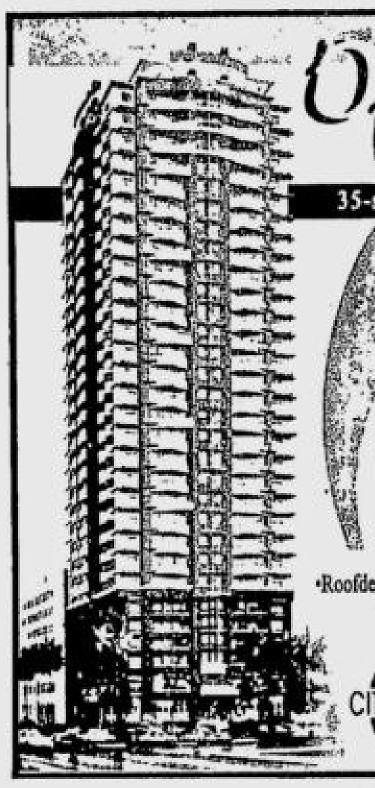
10 Days

DEPARTURE DATE: April 27, 2005
Fr. BOBBY TITCO
Pilgrimage Chaplain

Executive Resources, Inc.
INTERNATIONAL PILGRIMAGE COORDINATORS

Lower Lobby, Century Park Hotel, P. Ocampo St., Malate, Manila
Call Amie, Merle or Anna • Tel. Nos. 523-8581, 521-4156
Fax: 526-0126 • E-mail: pilgrimage@execres.com.ph
Website: www.executiveresources.com.ph
DOT-085-2003

IATA PTAA



Openhouse

January 27 and 29,2005

35-storey Office, Commercial and Residential Condominium

MAKATI EXECUTIVE TOWER II

City Square, Dela Rosa St. corner P. Medina St., Makati City

For as low as P5,528 monthly

•Swimming Pool•Gym•Separate sauna facilities for men and women
•Roofdeck/viewing deck•Jogging area at the roof deck•Provision for children's playground
•Function room•24- hr.-Association security

For more information:
CITYLAND 812-2222 • 243-6565 • 818-8888 • 241-1894
www.cityland.net investment@cityland.net
HLURB License to Sell No.08177

PACT
For
Call Center Job Applicants

FACT : Only 2 out of every 100 call center job applicants usually make it to the employment mark.

NEED : The rest need convincing communication and job interview skills.

HELP : PACT or Pre-Admission Communication Training is specially designed by Speechpower for the actual needs of call center job applicants.

JOIN : Join our PACT Free Preview Session. Make it to the top 24 of our free English Proficiency Test and enjoy a 50% discount on tuition.

PACT Free Preview Sessions

Jan. 21 - Fri	SP - Taft	6:00 - 8:30pm
Jan. 22 - Sat	SP - España	9:00 - 11:30am
Jan. 22 - Sat	SP - Cubao	5:00 - 7:30pm

We begin on time.
First come, first served.

From the country's top communication training center, you can make it to the country's top call centers.

SPEECHPOWER

SP-Cubao	SP-España
911-0832	735-7262
911-0833	735-7256
911-0834	735-7312

SP-Taft
521-3601
525-5310

www.speechpower.com.ph

DLI GENERICS SINCE 1986

Quality na gamot, sa presyong mas abot!!!

Suggested Retail Price August 8, 2004 • Makatitipid ng higit sa 80%

Analgesic/Antipyretic (Para sa kirot, lagnat o trangkaso)		DLI	Leading Brand	Savings
Mefenamic Acid susp. 50 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓	24.00	104.00	80.00/bot
Mefenamic Acid tab. 500 mg	✓	1.70	20.85	19.15/tab
Paracetamol syrup 125 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓	21.70	63.50	41.80/bot
Paracetamol tab 500 mg	✓	0.60	2.45	1.85/tab
Anti-biotic (Kontra-Bakterya)				
Amoxicillin cap. 250 mg	✓	2.60	8.95	6.35/cap
Amoxicillin cap. 500 mg	✓	3.70	15.75	12.05/cap
Amoxicillin susp. 250 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓	45.10	144.00	98.90/bot
Ampicillin cap. 500 mg	✓	6.50	14.15	7.65/bot
Chloramphenicol cap. 500 mg	✓	3.20	37.75	34.55/cap
Chloramphenicol susp. 125 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓	40.40	394.75	354.35/bot
Co-trimoxazole tab (TM-160mg SMZ-800mg)	✓	2.30	26.00	23.70/tab
Co-trimoxazole cap. (TM-80mg SMZ-400mg)	✓	2.60	14.80	12.20/cap
Co-trimoxazole susp. (TM-40mg SMZ-200mg)	✓	25.40	115.75	90.35/bot
Anti-cough (Para sa Ubo)				
Bromhexine HCL syrup 4 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓	26.70	74.75	48.05/bot
Carbocisteine cap. 500 mg	✓	2.40	12.25	9.85/cap
Carbocisteine susp. 100 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓	32.70	87.25	54.55/bot
Anti-diarrhea (Para sa pagtatae)				
Loperamide cap. 2mg	✓	1.80	10.25	8.45/cap

Mabibili sa sumusunod at sa mga botikang abot-kaya ang halaga.

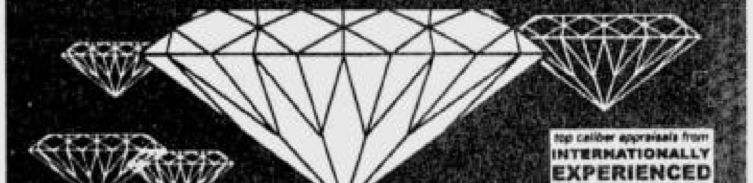
Huwag ipagpapalit sa iba! Hanapin ang tatak DLI. If out of stock, call 711-3933 712-4990 743-1636

Watsons YOUR PERSONAL STORE · EMILENE'S PHARMACY · Carlos SUPERDRUG · Rose Pharmacy

For factory prices visit: www.DLI-Generics.com for complete product & price information

---

NIBOR
CASH for DIAMONDS
Nibor Diamond Buying Office of the Philippines



top caliber appraisals from INTERNATIONALLY EXPERIENCED GEMOLOGISTS

- **INSTANT CASH** *for 1 1/2 carat & above, antiques and modern jewelry. Also old-cut diamonds.*
- **WE ACCEPT LOANS** *on important diamonds and jewelry.*

ALL TRANSACTIONS KEPT CONFIDENTIAL

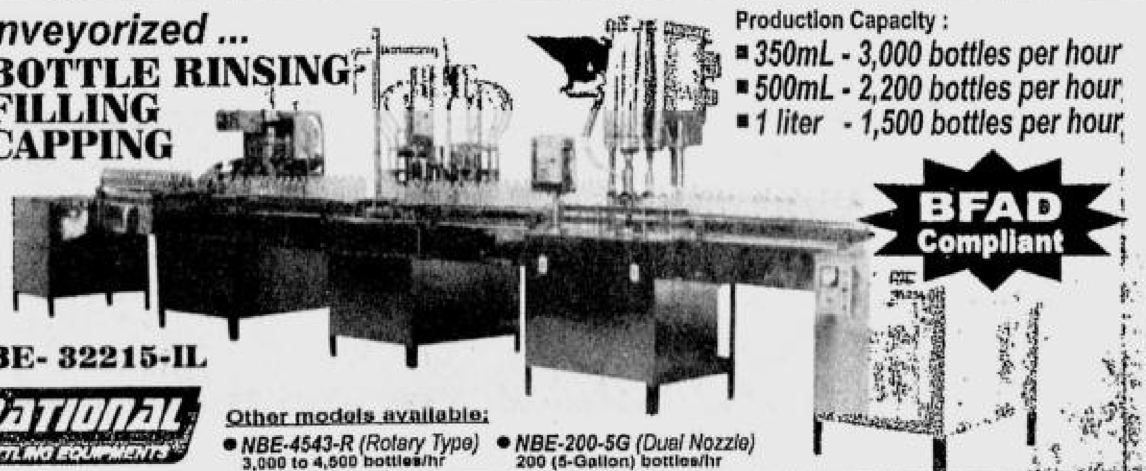
Tel. Nos.: 725-1823/ 726-1931 Mobile No.: (0917) 536-2456
Monday-Sunday 10am-5pm
Central Jewelry At The Jewellery. Greenhills Shopping Center. San Juan. M.M.

Highly Advanced ... Fully Automated
IN-LINE WATER BOTTLING MACHINE

Conveyorized ...

- BOTTLE RINSING
- FILLING
- CAPPING

Production Capacity :
- 350mL - 3,000 bottles per hour
- 500mL - 2,200 bottles per hour
- 1 liter - 1,500 bottles per hour



BFAD Compliant

NBE- 32215-IL

NATIONAL BOTTLING EQUIPMENTS

Other models available:
- NBE-4543-R (Rotary Type) 3,000 to 4,500 bottles/hr
- NBE-200-5G (Dual Nozzle) 200 (5-Gallon) bottles/hr

We design and install complete lines of commercial & industrial water treatment and purification systems.

FOR INQUIRIES, CALL:
ATT AQUA TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY, INC.
"THE WATER TREATMENT SPECIALIST"

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS
TEL. # 367-7134 / 367-7135
0917-6262708

CEBU REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS
TEL. # (032) 344-6473
0917-6258188
Toll Free 1800-102882-328

From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper:
INQUIRER

JOB Market ONLINE

VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com

The most interesting people and personalities leave their mark in the pages of the Sunday Inquirer Magazine

NOW in broadsheet format!

sunday INQUIRER magazine GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

8 Chinese seized in Iraq; archbishop freed

BAGHDAD—Insurgents released a video on Tuesday of eight alleged Chinese hostages in Iraq and threatened to kill them in 48 hours unless the Beijing government clarified their role in the country.

"We captured these Chinese as they were trying to leave Iraq. Interrogations showed they worked for one of the Chinese companies helping to build American facilities in Iraq," said one of the gunmen who were holding a pistol and an AK-47 assault rifle beside the eight men shown in the video.

"We call on the Chinese government to clarify its position on them and other Chinese. We will kill them 48 hours after their pictures are televised unless that is done," the gunman said on the video obtained by an international news agency.

The official Xinhua news agency said the Chinese Embassy in Baghdad confirmed the kidnapping but gave no further details.

The hostages, standing silently in front of a wall, held up their passports. The militants, who said they were from the Nuamaan Brigade of the Islamic resistance, looked on and pointed their weapons at the hostages.

Several of the hostages appeared young. One of them was born in 1987, according to his passport.

As this developed, the Vatican said that the Iraqi Catholic archbishop of Mosul who was kidnapped at gunpoint on Monday was freed on Tuesday morning without a ransom being paid.

Vatican spokesperson Joaquin Navarro-Valls said Pope John Paul was immediately informed of the release of Archbishop Basile Georges Casmoussa, 66, and "thanked God for the happy ending to this episode."

In expressing the Vatican's "great satisfaction," he confirmed reports from Iraq that no ransom had been paid.

Misna, a Rome-based Catholic missionary news agency with extensive contacts in the developing world, earlier reported the kidnappers had demanded a ransom of $200,000.

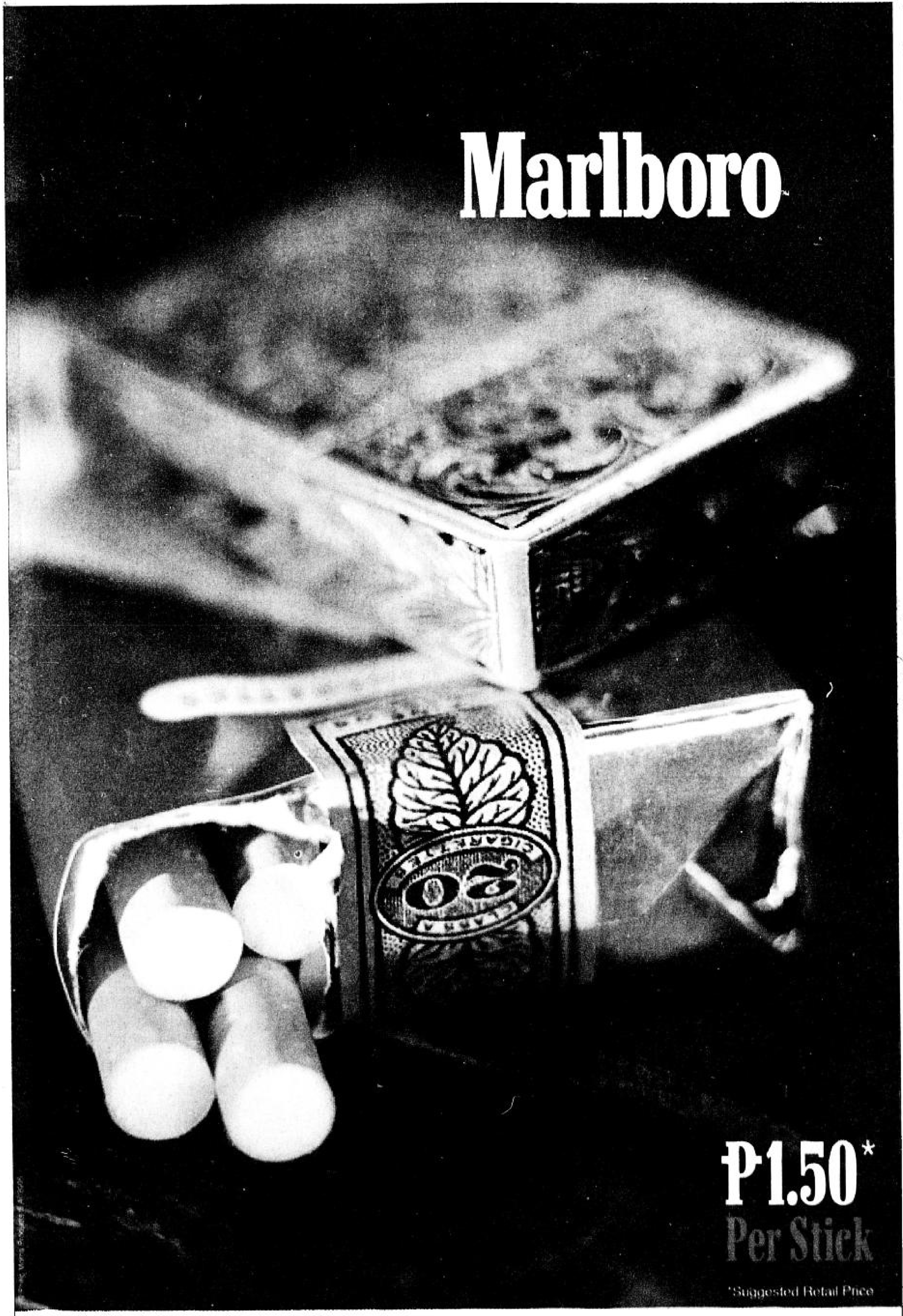
The Vatican announced the kidnapping—which it had branded an "act of terrorism"—on Monday night and demanded the immediate release of the archbishop.

Casmoussa was kidnapped by gunmen in two cars in the northern al-Majmoua al-Thaqafiya district of Iraq's third largest city on Tuesday afternoon while he was on his way to visit some families from his congregation.

Navarro-Valls, the Vatican spokesperson, said the kidnapping had "prompted great surprise" because Casmoussa was "very much loved" by both the Christian and Muslim community.

Casmoussa was believed to have been the highest ranking Catholic prelate to be abducted in Iraq, where the local church has been the target of a bombing campaign aimed at intimidating the tiny Christian minority.

Most of Iraq's Christians, who make up some three percent of the 25 million population, belong to the early Assyrian and Chaldean Catholic churches. The Vatican strongly opposed the US-led invasion of Iraq. *Reuters*



Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous
to your health

SACRIFICIAL LAMBS
Sheep flock together at a market ahead of Eid-al-Adha festival in Srinagar. Muslims around the world celebrate Eid-al-Adha by slaughtering sheep, goats and cows to commemorate Prophet Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son, Ismail, on God's command. REUTERS

Overseas Iraqis register for polls

LONDON—Far from the intimidation and violence facing voters in Iraq, the first of an estimated one million expatriates on Monday began registering to vote in the country's first free elections for half a century.

More than 1,000 Iraqis in Australia were the first to register, said Peter Erben of the Geneva-based International Organization for Migration (IOM), which is organizing the elections for Iraqis living abroad.

"We estimate up to a million people in the 14 host countries could register" for the landmark elections scheduled for Jan. 30, said Erben, speaking in Amman.

In Syria, home to about 400,000 Iraqis, of whom half were potentially eligible to vote, the registration began amid tight security, with people being closely searched at the entrance to registration centers.

Iraqis abroad over the age of 18 will be able to vote for a 275-seat provisional national assembly, while those in the country will also be able to vote for 18 provincial councils and a parliament for the semi-autonomous Kurdish region. *AFP*

Abbas orders end to anti-Israeli raids

RAMALLAH, West Bank—New Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas ordered an end to anti-Israeli attacks Monday, issuing instructions for large numbers of security forces to deploy along the Gaza border with Israel.

Under mounting Israeli pressure to take firm action against armed factions, Abbas also ordered an official investigation into a deadly attack on the border last week which led Israel to sever ties with the Palestinian Authority.

"Abu Mazen (Abbas) has given us orders to prevent any violent acts against Israel," said one senior official who attended a meeting of the national security council in Ramallah.

Another security source said that Abbas had also ordered security personnel to be deployed around the border crossings between Gaza and Israel, a specific demand of the Israeli administration.

"Abu Mazen gave orders that the security forces in Gaza be deployed intensively, especially near the crossings," he said.

"Their main task will be to prevent anybody trying to carry out attacks."

The order came after an attack at the Karni crossing between Israel and Gaza killed six Israelis and led Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to order an indefinite freeze on contacts with the Palestinians.

Accusing Abbas of "not lifting a finger" to prevent attacks, Sharon told Sunday's cabinet meeting that he had given Israeli military commanders carte blanche to crush the militants.

Army radio also reported that plans were being drawn up for a large-scale land operation in the territory if Abbas did not take action. *AFP*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Global poverty cut in half by 2015 if richest nations double aid–UN

UNITED NATIONS—Global poverty can be cut in half by 2015 and eliminated by 2025 if the world's richest countries—including the United States, Japan and Germany—more than double aid to the poorest countries, according to a UN-sponsored report.

It's a matter of life or death for tens of millions of impoverished people, according to the report, released Monday, by 265 of the world's leading development experts.

The so-called Millennium Project initiated by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan spells out the investments needed to meet UN goals adopted by world leaders at the Millennium Summit in 2000 to tackle poverty, hunger and disease and promote education and development, mainly in African and Asian countries.

"What we're proposing is a strategy of investment to help empower the lives of very poor people that lack the tools and sometimes even the basic means to stay alive, much less be productive members of a fast-paced world economy," said Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, head of the UN antipoverty effort and lead author of the report.

The investments range from schools, clinics, safe water and sanitation to fertilizer, roads, electricity and transport to get goods to market.

"The system is not working right now—let's be clear," he said. "There's a tremendous imbalance of focus on the issues of war and peace, and less on the dying and suffering of the poor who have no voice."

In a world of food mountains, 1 billion people live on $1 a day or less and 1.8 billion more live on just $2 a day, many going to bed hungry every night. Life expectancy in the poorest countries is half that in high-income countries, around 40 instead of 80, the report said. And every month, for example, 150,000 African children die of malaria because they don't have bed nets to keep out mosquitos, a tragedy Sachs called the "silent tsunami."

In 1970, the world's nations agreed to provide 0.7 percent of their gross national income for development assistance, and that figure was reaffirmed by the UN conference on financing development in Monterey, Mexico, in 2002.

So far, only five countries have met or surpassed the target—Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden. Six others have made commitments to reach the target by 2015—Belgium, Finland, France, Ireland, Spain and Britain.

But 11 of the 22 richest donors, according to the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, are far from the target and have not set timetables to reach it including the US, Japan and Germany. *AP*

Scientists eye early warning system for disasters

KOBE—More than 150 countries got to work Tuesday on drafting a global action plan to save lives during disasters, with the United Nations saying the effort needed to be quicker and better funded in the wake of the Asian tsunamis.

Around 4,000 scientists and officials would spend five days to set goals for all nations ranging from an early-warning system for disasters to standards for safe buildings, UN chief humanitarian coordinator Jan Egeland said.

The conference in the western Japanese city of Kobe is due to set goals to be met by 2015, but Egeland urged a shorter time-frame.

"Ten years from now, there should be no country without a disaster prevention program," he said.

"I am acutely aware of how much is being spent on our being fire brigades, of putting plaster on the wounds, and too little preventing the devastation and the suffering in the first place," Egeland said.

Egeland, who famously accused rich countries of being "stingy," called in Kobe for donors to devote money to prevention measures and for more "newly rich" countries to contribute.

"I would propose that over the next 10 years a minimum of 10 percent of the large sums now spent on emergency relief by all nations should be earmarked for disaster reduction," Egeland said.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi proposed to the conference that his government would help the effort by setting up a global database on relief and reconstruction and a center on water hazards. *AFP*

BACK TO NORMAL
An Indonesian tsunami disaster survivor throws fertilizer at her paddy field in Banda Aceh. Survivors of the devastated earthquake and subsequence tsunamis are struggling to come back to their normal life but a major part of them still dependent on relief goods. AFP

80 percent of Japanese back female on Imperial throne

TOKYO—Some 80 percent of Japanese people support revising a male-only imperial succession law to allow a female to ascend the throne of the world's oldest royal line, a poll showed Tuesday.

A nationwide survey by Japan's top-selling daily Yomiuri Shimbun found 79 percent of respondents were in favor of revising the 1948 Imperial Household Law, which bars women from ascending the throne.

Only four percent said they were against the revision with 16 percent saying they had no opinion on the subject, the daily said.

Ten experts tasked with reviewing whether a woman should be allowed to ascend the throne are due to hold their first meeting next Tuesday.

They include Hiroshi Okuda, chair of Japan's largest company Toyota Motor Corp., and Sadako Ogata, the former UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

The team is to submit a report to Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi later this year.

No boy has been born to the Japanese royal family since Prince Akishino in 1965, potentially spelling crisis for the succession to the Chrysanthemum Throne. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Spain indicts 8 on terror charges

MADRID—A Spanish judge indicted eight people on terrorism charges Monday, saying they provided logistical help and false documents for suspects in the Sept. 11 attacks. The indictment was released by leading terror investigator, Judge Baltasar Garzon. It said the eight had provided logistics and counterfeit documents for suspects including Ramzi Binalshibh, an alleged would-be Sept. 11 hijacker who has been in US custody since his 2002 capture in Pakistan. He is believed to have been the main contact between a group of Sept. 11 attackers in Hamburg, Germany, and Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network. Binalshibh, who could not get into the United States to participate in the attacks but served as a key money man, reportedly is in US custody at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The eight indicted were identified as Reda Zerroug, Redouane Zenimi, Samir Mahdjoub, Mohamed Ayat, Hedi Ben Youssef Boudhiba, Khaled Madani, Tahar Ezirouali and Spaniard Francisco Garcia Gomez. *AP*

Suicide car bomber kills 2 in Baghdad

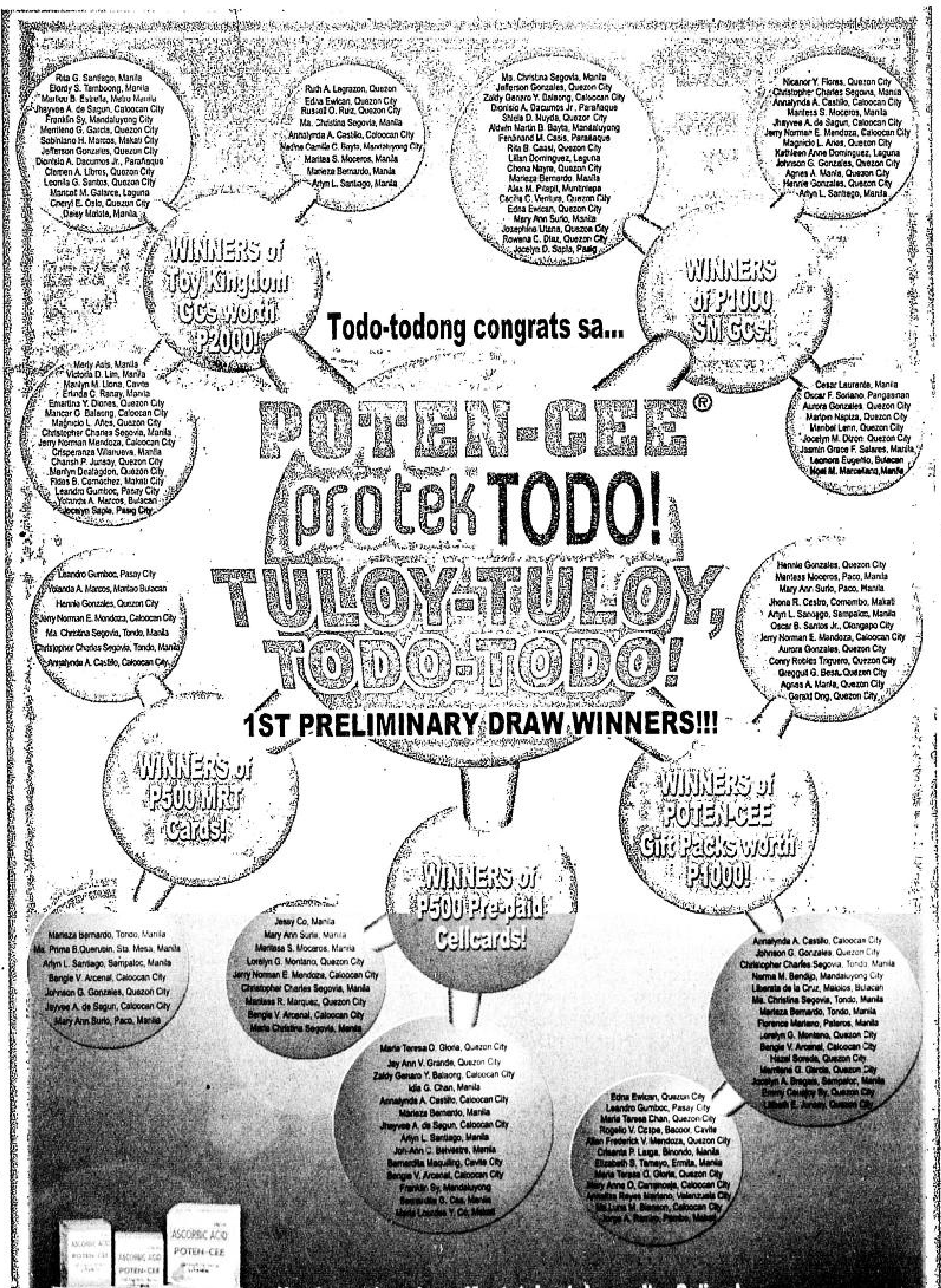
BAGHDAD—A suicide car bomber set off a large blast Tuesday outside the offices of a leading Shiite political party, killing two other people, police and witnesses said. The driver of the Chevrolet Caprice slammed his bomb-laden car into a pickup truck that was used to block the road leading to the political party's office and detonated the load of explosives, said police Maj. Raed Nassab. Two guards were killed, he said. The attack occurred in the capital's Jadriyah district and left the two vehicles in flames. Shredded debris and flesh littered the street out front of the offices of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, a main contender in the Jan. 30 election. SCIRI had close ties to Iran, and is strongly opposed by Sunni Muslim militants. *AP*

100 hospitalized in Bangkok subway crash

BANGKOK—At least 100 Bangkok commuters were hospitalized Tuesday, six of them in critical condition, one day after two trains collided on the city's six-month-old subway, officials said. Up to 200 people were injured when a rush-hour train packed with 700 passengers was hit by an empty runaway train, the Mass Rapid Transit Authority said Tuesday. "As of now, six people are in intensive care units at three city hospitals... but all of them are out of danger" and are expected to recover, an official said. Rama IV, a private hospital that was the closest to the scene of the accident, received 165 wounded commuters Monday, with 59 of them still in hospital beds Tuesday. "The two most serious were women who underwent surgery, and they are out of danger and their status is stable," a hospital worker said. "We expected to discharge about 10 patients today," he said. *AFP*

Ailing Aussie opposition leader quits

SYDNEY—Australia's Labor leader Mark Latham announced Tuesday that he was resigning from the opposition leadership after only 13 months in the job, and bowing out of public life, because of poor health. Latham, who led Labor to a crushing defeat in the Oct. 9 election, made the announcement amid increasing pressure from Labor state premiers for him to quit because of his health and complaints about his political judgment. In a brief statement, Latham thanked the Labor Party "for the opportunity of leading it to the last election and trying to form a Labor government. I hope that my colleagues can achieve this vital goal in the future and I wish them well," he told reporters. He refused to answer any questions about his decision to resign. Latham, 43, has not been in public since before Christmas when he suffered his second attack of the potentially life-threatening condition, pancreatitis. *AFP*



Rita G. Santiago, Manila
Elordy S. Tamboong, Manila
Marilou B. Estrella, Metro Manila
Jhayvee A. de Sagun, Caloocan City
Franklin Sy, Mandaluyong City
Merrilene G. Garcia, Quezon City
Sabiniano H. Marcos, Makati City
Jefferson Gonzales, Quezon City
Dionisio A. Dacumos Jr., Parañaque
Clemen A. Libres, Quezon City
Leonila G. Santos, Quezon City
Mancel M. Galarce, Laguna
Cheryl E. Oslo, Quezon City
Daisy Matala, Manila

Ruth A. Lagrazon, Quezon
Edna Ewican, Quezon City
Russell O. Ruiz, Quezon City
Ma. Christina Segovia, Manila
Annalynda A. Castillo, Caloocan City
Nadine Camille C. Bayta, Mandaluyong City
Marites S. Moceros, Manila
Marieza Bernardo, Manila
Arlyn L. Santiago, Manila

Ms. Christina Segovia, Manila
Jefferson Gonzales, Quezon City
Zaldy Genaro Y. Balaong, Caloocan City
Dionisio A. Dacumos Jr., Parañaque
Shiela D. Nuyda, Quezon City
Aldwin Martin B. Bayta, Mandaluyong
Ferdinand M. Casis, Parañaque
Rita B. Casal, Quezon City
Lilian Dominguez, Laguna
Chona Nayre, Quezon City
Marieza Bernardo, Manila
Alas M. Pitapil, Muntinlupa
Cecilia C. Ventura, Quezon City
Edna Ewican, Quezon City
Mary Ann Surio, Manila
Josephine Utana, Quezon City
Rowena C. Diaz, Quezon City
Jocelyn D. Sapla, Pasig

Nicanor Y. Flores, Quezon City
Christopher Charles Segovia, Manila
Annalynda A. Castillo, Caloocan City
Mariess S. Moceros, Manila
Jhayvee A. de Sagun, Caloocan City
Jerry Norman E. Mendoza, Caloocan City
Magnicio L. Anes, Quezon City
Kathleen Anne Dominguez, Laguna
Johnson G. Gonzales, Quezon City
Agnes A. Maria, Quezon City
Hennie Gonzales, Quezon City
Arlyn L. Santiago, Manila

WINNERS of Toy Kingdom GCs worth P2000!

Todo-todong congrats sa...

WINNERS of P1000 SM GCs!

Merly Asis, Manila
Victoria D. Lim, Manila
Marilyn M. Llona, Cavite
Erlinda C. Ranay, Manila
Emartina Y. Diones, Quezon City
Mancor C. Balaong, Caloocan City
Magnicio L. Anes, Quezon City
Christopher Charles Segovia, Manila
Jerry Norman Mendoza, Caloocan City
Crisperanza Villanueva, Manila
Charish P. Jursay, Quezon City
Marilyn Dealagdon, Quezon City
Fides B. Camochez, Makati City
Leandro Gumboc, Pasay City
Yolanda A. Marcos, Bulacan
Jocelyn Sapla, Pasig City

Cesar Laurente, Manila
Oscar F. Soriano, Pangasinan
Aurora Gonzales, Quezon City
Maripin Napiza, Quezon City
Maribel Lenn, Quezon City
Jocelyn M. Dizon, Quezon City
Jasmin Grace F. Salares, Manila
Leonora Eugenio, Bulacan
Noel M. Marcellano, Manila

POTEN-CEE®
protek TODO!
TULOY-TULOY, TODO-TODO!

Leandro Gumboc, Pasay City
Yolanda A. Marcos, Marilao Bulacan
Hennie Gonzales, Quezon City
Jerry Norman E. Mendoza, Caloocan City
Ma. Christina Segovia, Tondo, Manila
Christopher Charles Segovia, Tondo, Manila
Annalynda A. Castillo, Caloocan City

Hennie Gonzales, Quezon City
Mariess Moceros, Paco, Manila
Mary Ann Surio, Paco, Manila
Jhona R. Castro, Comembo, Makati
Arlyn L. Santiago, Sampaloc, Manila
Oscar B. Santos Jr., Olongapo City
Jerry Norman E. Mendoza, Caloocan City
Aurora Gonzales, Quezon City
Conny Robles Triguero, Quezon City
Greggul G. Besa, Quezon City
Agnes A. Maria, Quezon City
Gerald Ong, Quezon City

1ST PRELIMINARY DRAW WINNERS!!!

WINNERS of P500 MRT Cards!

WINNERS of POTEN-CEE Gift Packs worth P1000!

WINNERS of P500 Pre-paid Cellcards!

Marieza Bernardo, Tondo, Manila
Ma. Prima B.Querubin, Sta. Mesa, Manila
Arlyn L. Santiago, Sampaloc, Manila
Bengie V. Arcenal, Caloocan City
Johnson G. Gonzales, Quezon City
Jayvee A. de Sagun, Caloocan City
Mary Ann Surio, Paco, Manila

Jessy Co, Manila
Mary Ann Surio, Manila
Mariess S. Moceros, Manila
Lorelyn G. Montano, Quezon City
Jerry Norman E. Mendoza, Caloocan City
Christopher Charles Segovia, Manila
Maritess R. Marquez, Quezon City
Bengie V. Arcenal, Caloocan City
Maria Christina Segovia, Manila

Annalynda A. Castillo, Caloocan City
Johnson G. Gonzales, Quezon City
Christopher Charles Segovia, Tondo, Manila
Norma M. Bendijo, Mandaluyong City
Liberata de la Cruz, Malolos, Bulacan
Ma. Christina Segovia, Tondo, Manila
Marieza Bernardo, Tondo, Manila
Florence Mariano, Pateros, Manila
Lorelyn G. Montano, Quezon City
Bengie V. Arcenal, Caloocan City
Hazel Soreda, Quezon City
Merrilene G. Garcia, Quezon City
Jocelyn A. Bregala, Sampaloc, Manila
Emmy Caudjoy Sy, Quezon City
Lilibeth E. Jurado, Quezon City

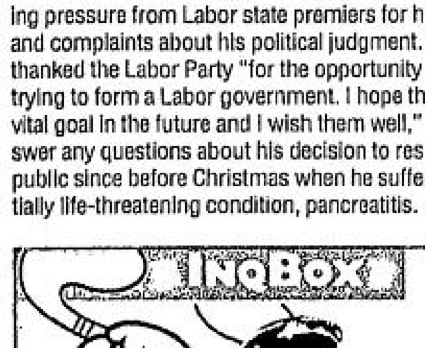
Maria Teresa O. Gloria, Quezon City
Jay Ann V. Grande, Quezon City
Zaldy Genaro Y. Balaong, Caloocan City
Ida G. Chan, Manila
Annalynda A. Castillo, Caloocan City
Marieza Bernardo, Manila
Jhayvee A. de Sagun, Caloocan City
Arlyn L. Santiago, Manila
Joh-Ann C. Belvestre, Manila
Bernardita Maquiling, Cavite City
Bengie V. Arcenal, Caloocan City
Franklin Sy, Mandaluyong
Bernardita G. Cao, Manila
Maria Lourdes Y. Co, Makati

Edna Ewican, Quezon City
Leandro Gumboc, Pasay City
Maria Teresa Chan, Quezon City
Rogelio V. Ozspe, Bacoor, Cavite
Allen Frederick V. Mendoza, Quezon City
Crisanta P. Larga, Binondo, Manila
Elizabeth S. Tamayo, Ermita, Manila
Maria Teresa O. Gloria, Quezon City
Mary Anne O. Carranceja, Caloocan City
Annalita Reyes Mariano, Valenzuela City
Ma. Luna M. Bienson, Caloocan City
Jorge A. Ramiro, Pembo, Makati

ASCORBIC ACID POTEN-CEE

Umpisa pa lang 'yan. Magtutuloy-tuloy pa 'to. Sali na!
2nd Preliminary draw na sa Jan. 28 (Shaw MRT Station)
at sa March 4 na ang Grand Draw!

Pascual
Consumer Healthcare



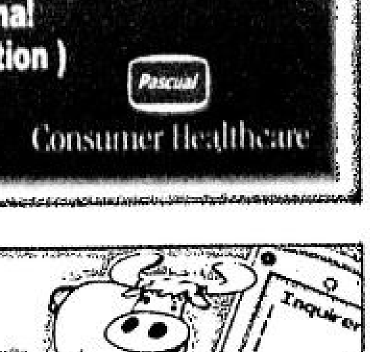
Question of the Week

What is your reaction to former President Joseph Estrada's vow to lead RP to a 'new dawn,' after hitting the Arroyo government for alleged corruption?

Senders of d first 10 texts publishd in Tuesday's **InqBox** *wiL each receiv an *Inquirer Mug! U*

[illegible] **inquirer news name/city/message.**
[illegible]
(Maximum of 160 characters)

*Metro Manila winners can call Jane at 8978808.
Provincial winners can text:
inquirer ad name/city/mailing address
to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them.



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ISSN 0116-2642
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Vol. 20 No. 42

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

OPINION

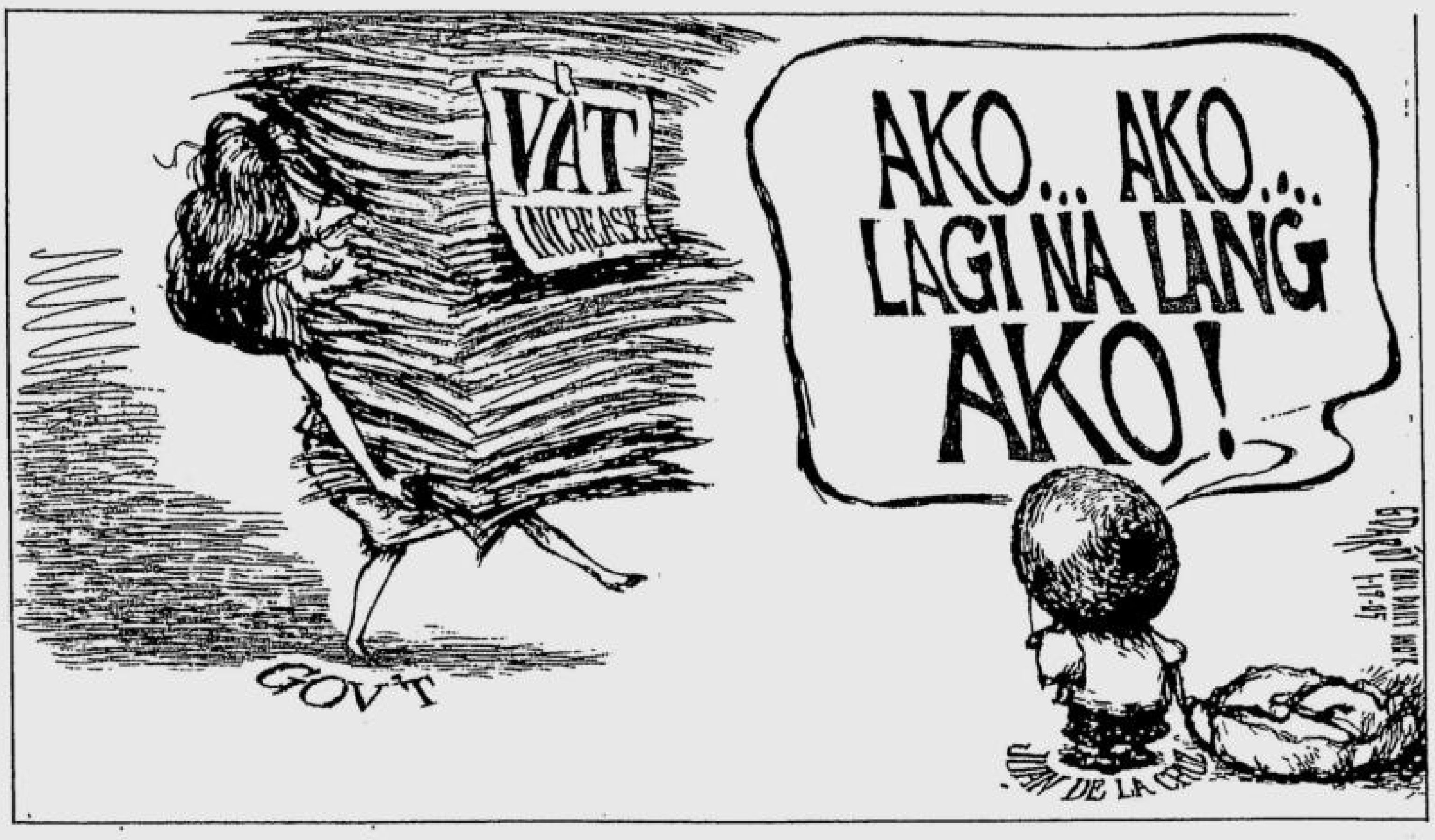
Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at
• Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
• P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
• Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
• Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 • Advertising 897-4807
• Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34,
• 100% soy ink •

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
Editor in Chief **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**
Managing Editor **Jose Ma. D. Nolasco**
Associate Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**
Associate Editor for Readership **Rosario A. Garcellano**
News Editor **Artemio T. Engracia Jr.** • *Chief, News Day Desk* **Nilo B. Paurom**
Opinion Editor **Jorge V. Aruta**
National Editor **Pergentino B. Bandayrel Jr.**
City Editor **Gerry Lirio**
Senior Desk Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**
Editorial Consultant **Amando Doronila**
Chief Photographer **Ernie U. Sarmiento**
Art & Design Director **Lynett A. Villariba**

Board Chairman **Marixi R. Prieto**
President **Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **Renato R. Reinoso**
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services **David O. Valdes**
VP for Advertising **Felipe R. Olarte**
AVP for Circulation **Gloria P. Lardizabal**

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.



Watching cops

Editorial

IN THE WAKE of PO1 Jonathan Moreño's serial shooting of five policemen and a young girl, the Philippine National Police has responded with the usual noise: investigations and talks about reforms galore. But the reforms being contemplated—mandatory drug testing and neuro-psychological exams—are actually standards that are supposed to be there all along. And the investigation to be conducted by no less than six police generals seems top-heavy. It is a glittering, but ad-hoc, solution at best.

When Moreño went berserk on the final day of the Ati-Atihan festival in Aklan, he literally gunned for his fellow policemen. (The young girl, it seems, was collateral damage.) The selectiveness of Moreño indicates a grudge against his superiors (Aklan provincial police chief Supt. Odelardo Magayanes, and Kalibo police chief Chief Insp. Manuel Ilejay Jr.) and his peers (three other cops shot dead). Speculations have even begun as to why, if the PNP statements are to be believed, Moreño reacted to stress by running amok. While it is too early to give free rein to such speculations, the grisly effects of his actions surely had a cause.

Determining the cause is the problem. What faces the PNP is less a matter of attending to one shocking case, but rather, instituting an effective means of selecting, monitoring and investigating policemen as they apply for and are accepted into the service, and, on occasion, do wrong in the conduct of their duties.

It may be, for example, that Moreño passed all the necessary tests and qualifications required for acceptance into the police force. But what had the PNP done by way of evaluating his continued suitability for the force? Considering, for example, reports that Moreño became a witness in a case against a drug lord, what institutional controls were there to ensure that he would be able to cope with the pressure?

The nature of the PNP's responses so far only shows how weak it is as an institution. There seem to be no mechanisms in place to investigate the case according to existing procedures and policies, instead of the personal interest of the head of the PNP.

PNP Director General Edgardo Aglipay is a man obsessed with projecting a good image of the police (as well as his own) to the public, and he can be counted upon to do something—anything—to get a good press, following this latest black eye. But nothing can hide the glaring lack of an institutional mechanism for preventing and investigating such disasters.

Since it was officially "civilianized" during the term of President Fidel V. Ramos, the PNP has been slowly, but inexorably, undergoing a transformation. The martial law era relicts of the defunct—and disgraced—Philippine Constabulary are passing from the scene. The generation of old, tired, cynical pot-bellied cops of the martial law years have been retiring and there is a lot of new blood in the police.

The quality of the new recruits, however, is pretty much an unknown quantity to the public. It sees many young cops on the beat, but how good are those cops? The answer is, the cops are only as good as the selection process that vetted them, and the policies that ensure that they are properly monitored while they are in the service. Drug and neuro-psychological tests should be continuing procedures in the force. And there should also be a methodical, professional means of identifying potential problem cops and for looking into the causes and results of their misconduct.

Investigating the causes of Moreño's actions will be a painful and potentially highly embarrassing process for the PNP. But such a process is necessary if the truth is to be obtained and it is essential if the PNP is to stop simply reacting to things, and, instead, become proactive in preventing crimes and misdemeanors.

It shouldn't require a top-heavy investigating board to get to the bottom of the grisly serial shooting. It should be fully within the capacity of the PNP to identify policemen who might be under almost unbearable pressure before they actually lose control. Or, in cases that are much too hard to predict and prevent, to get to the bottom of things so that measures that will improve the institution and its members can be put in place.

Instead of 'wet flag,' enforce traffic rules

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

CHAIR Bayani Fernando of the Metro Manila Development Authority is right: pedestrians and drivers (and sidewalk vendors) are undisciplined and something should be done about them. For want of anything better, that "something" is the present "wet flag scheme" that is now raising temperatures among the MMDA chair, some Metro Manila mayors and the commuting public.

Briefly, the problem is this: Commuters waiting for rides get off the sidewalks and wait on the streets, oftentimes up to the middle of the street, to be the first to board arriving jeepneys or buses. Thus, they constrict the space for vehicles, creating traffic jams.

The MMDA and local governments have put up signs ("Strictly No Loading/Unloading," *"Huwag mag abang dito; doon ka sa bangketa,"* etc.), constructed waiting sheds, put up barricades and fences along the sidewalks and on the street islands (making Metro Manila look like Laguna Lake with its myriad fishpens) to force pedestrians off the streets, but to no avail. Commuters continue to ignore them.

Even with the sidewalk barriers, commuters get off the sidewalk through the gaps where they are supposed to board jeepneys and walk back to where the jeepneys are coming from so they would be among the first to get rides, filling up the streets with people instead of vehicles.

Thus, the MMDA thought of the "wet flag scheme." A dripping wet flag hanging from a pole slung on the roof of a vehicle slowly moves beside the sidewalks, thus wetting pedestrians who are on the streets. This will force them to go back on the sidewalk, goes the MMDA logic.

The trouble is, people get off the streets when they see the "wet flag" coming but go back as soon as it passes. In a few minutes, the situation is back to where it was.

Why not just arrest the pedestrians for jaywalking and the drivers for loading passengers outside the loading/unloading zones as the law mandates?

The MMDA counters that it does not have enough manpower to arrest all the traffic violators. Maybe so, but when the people see that at least some of the jaywalkers are being arrested, some of them will take the hint and wait where they are supposed to.

Lack of manpower is not the real reason. The real reason is that the MMDA's traffic enforcers are afraid to confront violators. Being former street sweepers promoted to traffic enforcers, they have inferiority complexes. They feel inadequate when arresting violators (are they even authorized to do that?). They prefer to stand in the middle of the street where they can be seen by their superiors waving their arms at oncoming vehicles. Even when all hell is breaking loose at the nearby intersection, they won't bother to go there to straighten up the jam. That's too complicated and stressful.

The situation was worsened by the cowardly act of the Philippine National Police to withdraw all its traffic policemen and leave traffic enforcement to the MMDA. The reason of PNP Director General Edgar Aglipay is to put the "*kotong* cops" out of business. Instead of controlling and disciplining his policemen (as then PNP chief Panfilo Lacson was able to do), Aglipay would rather take the easy way out. No cops, no *kotong*, so he and the PNP cannot be blamed for mulcting cops. Aglipay abdicated and adandoned the PNP duty of enforcing traffic regulations.

Result: anarchy. Pedestrians and drivers do their own thing, regardless of traffic rules. They're not afraid of the traffic enforcers who, on the contrary, are the ones afraid of them. Or worse, they are as corrupt as the "*kotong* cops" they replaced. The MMDA's traffic enforcers are next to useless. The salaries the taxpayers are paying them are a waste of money. Aglipay and Fernando are as much to blame for the breakdown in traffic order as the undisciplined drivers and pedestrians.

If the MMDA will arrest and fine only a third of all traffic violators, it would have enough funds to run itself without depending on the money contributed by local government units. Better still, it will finally impose discipline and restore order.

Instead of the "wet flag scheme" and other harebrained gimmicks, why doesn't the MMDA enforce traffic rules strictly, the same way it successfully cleared most sidewalks of sidewalk vendors (although they're coming back with a vengeance, thanks to mayors coddling them)? The "wet flag" is as harebrained as the petroleum sprinkled on the vegetables and fruits being sold by sidewalk vendors to get them off the sidewalks.

The MMDA spent a lot of taxpayers' money constructing the pink waiting sheds, but which few commuters bother to use. They prefer to wait on the the street corners where buses and jeepneys stop to pick them up. Why doesn't the MMDA arrest drivers who load/unload passengers away from the waiting sheds? Why doesn't it put up steel railings or ropes to the waiting sheds so commuters will be forced to fall in line while waiting for rides? If all PU vehicles would only line up to load/unload beside the waiting sheds, the process would be faster and there would be order. Commuters won't have to wait in the middle of streets and fight to get aboard PU vehicles.

Commuters fall in line to ride buses and jeepneys outside some malls in Makati. They fall in line at Megamall. Why can't we do this in other places as well? The MMDA should be concentrating on this instead of continuing the crazy "wet flag scheme."

What new dawn?

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

HE'S lost his pounds, he's lost his waddle, he's lost his listlessness. And he may also have lost his mind.

Joseph Estrada flew home last weekend the picture of feistiness and defiance and said he would lead this country to a new dawn. He was "more determined than ever to restore the hope that has been lost, to fight for a better future, uphold the Constitution and restore the rule of law." He slammed "the unrestrained corruption in all branches and levels of government (which had produced) an administration largely without public support, discredited and distrusted not only by our people and our neighbors but also by the rest of the international community."

"I have returned to do what the Constitution tasked me to do in June 1998," he said.

Well, as I suggested the last time Erap spoke about the "rule of law," which was at FPJ's wake, when he (wrongly) compared his fate to that of his fallen buddy, he embodies the rule of law only as much as Mike Arroyo embodies the sway of honesty. In fact, the only thing Erap embodies is the rule of lotto, or more accurately *jueteng*, which was the thing that felled him in the first place.

What he says about the GMA administration is true. But he has only himself to blame for it. Every word he uses to indict the incumbent government comes back to him with equal force. The reason we got saddled with GMA was that we (GMA wasn't part of the struggle, she was just its beneficiary) were determined to restore the hope that had been lost to us, to fight for a better future, to uphold the Constitution and restore the rule of law. The unrestrained corruption in all branches and levels of the Erap administration (not least the Department of Education, where various illiterates were involved in textbook scams) produced an administration that lost public support and was discredited and distrusted not only by Filipinos but by the rest of the world.

What the Constitution tasked him to do in 1998 was to rule well. Or at least to the best of his abilities, limited as they were. Certainly it tasked him not to turn Malacañang into a beerhouse populated by thugs who met in the witching hours, guzzling Blue Label and partaking of the pleasures offered by Atong Ang, a veritable coven not unlike the den of the *kontrabidas* in suits in his old Ilang-Ilang movies. Previous presidents had stolen before him, but they had stolen only money. He stole the hope of this country. Never mind giving us back our hope. Just give us back your loot.

Contrary to what Erap thinks, he is not GMA's nemesis, he is her ally. Frankly, I cannot imagine GMA quaking in her boots from Erap's pronouncements, I can only imagine her applauding gratefully. The situation is not unlike Cory's occupation of Malacañang and the threats to her posed by the Marcos loyalists. Erap is a continuing reminder that the future of this country is not to be found in the opposition. There is no one in the opposition that has the power or credibility to rally the people against the administration. I do not like this administration, I do think GMA can, and should be, impeached—for more reasons than we impeached Erap. But I will not join any initiative led by Erap or Ping Lacson or Edgar Angara to "unite this country." They will not bring a new dawn, they will bring a swift sunset. The way out for this country is not to step back into the past, it is to plunge boldly into the future.

I repose my faith in two things here. The first is that I cannot believe that this country of 70 million souls is so bereft of honest and talented men and women, notwithstanding that 20 percent of the population wants to leave it, that it cannot produce alternatives to Erap and GMA. I do hope in particular civil society, which was pivotal in ousting Erap but which has been stricken blind under GMA, will pick up the pieces and rediscover its mission. Which is not to be a lackey (Malacañang is already full of them) but to be a genuine force for change. And of course there's the youth. Forget Kiko Pangilinan, youth was perfectly wasted on him even when he was young. But surely idealism hasn't been lost on the students and young professionals?

The second is that well beyond personalities, there is vision. This country has never had trouble uniting when the compelling need for it arises. The two Edsas, which were the two times we became one in heroic struggle, were not led by charismatic figures, they were led by a burning desire to end tyranny and reclaim the hope that had been stolen from us. The second Edsa, in particular, which had no one leader, even if the usual suspects, or Edsa I personalities, later tried to appropriate it. Ideas can be very powerful, even in a culture that values interpersonal relationships. Certainly, ideas can unite—and have united—Filipinos toward lofty goals.

No, this country has had no trouble uniting when the compelling need for it arises. And nothing can be more compelling than ending a reign of corruption and tyranny and reclaiming a lost future. What this country has always had trouble with is sustaining the initiative. We heave a sigh of relief at the end of a sudden burst of heroism and go back to where we were, leaving the field to carpet-bagging successors.

But whatever the case, I don't see how this country can keep together for very long. Government isn't just exploding, it's imploding from its own weight and turning into a black hole. We're being left behind by all our neighbors. If the tsunami that hit them showed anything, it is only that they had so much to lose. We don't. Disasters visit us with precious little to destroy.

The alternative to an atrocious present is not a discredited past. It is a decent future, or a crack at having one.

Retreat

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE ARROYO administration bowed to political reality last Jan. 11, when it agreed with congressional leaders to trim its target of enacting eight urgent revenue bills during its first year in office.

Following her first meeting for the new year with the Ledac (Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council), President Macapagal-Arroyo realized that her political capacity to line up Congress behind her priority goals was severely limited. After getting a feel of congressional resistance to any attempt at steamrolling the passage of the eight tax bills intended to raise revenue to avert a fiscal crisis, the administration blinked and agreed with congressional leaders to modify her target from number of bills passed to the amount of revenue that can be generated before Congress goes on recess in March.

Conceding the administration's climb down from its high perch, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said, "What tax measures will be approved will not really matter because what is important is the end result: P80 billion in additional revenue." The face-saving retreat was echoed by administration Sen. Ralph Recto, chair of the Senate ways and means committee, who said that the administration expected to achieve its P80-billion goal with the enactment of only four bills: the higher "sin" tax on cigarettes and alcoholic drinks, the lateral attrition bill, revision of the value-added tax, and the rationalization of fiscal incentives.

In an optimistic estimate, not warranted by results over the past six months, the administration expected the "sin" tax bills to raise P15 billion; the VAT bill, P40 billion; the fiscal incentives bill, between P5 billion and P10 billion; and the lateral attribution bill, P10 billion.

"We can get P80 billion in revenues from the four measures," Recto said, engaging in wishful thinking. "We will consider the other revenue proposals but they will take the back seat in the meantime."

The administration decided to trim its revenue-generating agenda after it was embarrassed by its dim record of achievement during the first six months of Ms Arroyo's regular term. At the end of the year, only the "sin" tax bill was signed into law out of the eight proposed revenue measures, and the lateral attrition bill failed to clear the Senate despite the holding of a special session of Congress after the Christmas holidays.

Against this dismal achievement, the administration appears to have lost the initiative to get the things needed to avert the fiscal crisis done, despite the warning made in August by a group of UP School of Economics professors. In political terms, the shift of tactics from number of bills passed indicated that the administration has abdicated the initiative to Congress. It was agreed at the Ledac meeting that it would be Congress' call to determine the priority of what tax measures would be passed during the next three months.

The abdication confirms suspicions that the President's capacity to influence Congress to keep in step with the tempo of reform she desires has been waning. Resistance in Congress to her priorities illustrates that the President has failed to build on the political capital she gained in the last election, which she won with a narrow margin of just 3 percent but which saw her winning coalition garnering majorities in both Houses of Congress and sweeping most of the offices of provincial governors and city mayors.

These electoral gains, especially in Congress, have not been used to fuel the takeoff of her revenue-enhancement agenda. The administration has explained that the failure to get its congressional allies behind the tax-generation agenda stems from public resistance to new and increased taxes, a resistance that congressmen are loath to go against.

During the past six months, the administration has been plagued by falling public opinion approval ratings. It has blamed this decline on her tax agenda, which it has claimed to be unpopular.

The fall in the ratings has generated a vicious cycle. It has inhibited the administration from pushing hard for the tax measures, but at the same time, the deficit has prevented it from injecting funds into public capital expenditures to promote economic growth and create jobs.

Independent economists have criticized the administration for being too timid in pushing much-needed fiscal reforms and for not taking risks. They have pointed out that the President is not spending her political capital, arguing that if no risks are taken, no gains will be made.

The President has been held hostage during the last six months by threats of unrest and instability arising from frustrations over the rising cost of living, reflected by the sharp rise in inflation, which has been blamed for the continuing slump of her approval rating. But the dilemma is that if the administration does not push hard for its fiscal reform agenda, there would be no result to show and the deeper the country would sink into its fiscal problem.

Threats of unrest and instability have developed in the administration a bunker mentality, forcing it to adopt the political strategy of holding its political coalition at all costs and preventing it from breaking up by giving in to demands for political payback. For example, it yielded to congressional pressure not to slash the pork barrel, which is one of the cost-cutting measures recommended to reduce the deficit, as a companion measure to the new tax measures.

At some point, the President has to break this cycle of political blackmail and threats from her political opponents, if she wants to get things done. Her opponents are tapping public frustrations to fuel instability.

Space and time to heal

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE LATEST news on the tsunami relief front is that officials of the United Nations have temporarily banned aid workers from traveling to certain parts of Aceh province in Indonesia, the area hardest hit by the tsunami and nearest the epicenter of the earthquake that triggered the killer tides. The travel restrictions were due to reports of renewed fighting between Indonesian government troops and separatist rebels, who have been waging a war for an independent Aceh for decades.

But rebel leader Tengku Mucksalmina told the Associated Press that aid workers had nothing to fear, dismissing government claims that insurgents might attack relief convoys to steal food for their fighters. "Our mothers, our wives, our children are victims (of) this tragedy. We would never ambush any convoy with aid for them," Mucksalmina told AP. "We want them (aid groups) to stay. We ask them not to leave the Acehnese people who are suffering."

Aid and relief efforts in Sri Lanka had also been reported as being hampered by continued conflict between the government forces representing the majority Sinhalese population, and rebels fighting for the creation of an independent Tamil nation in the north of the island. There had been reports of Tamil raids on aid and relief convoys on the grounds that much of the relief goods were going to Sinhalese-dominated areas and none to the Tamils. On the other hand, there had also been reports that mobs of Sinhalese were blocking convoys destined for Tamil-dominated areas, insisting that they needed the relief materials more.

One would think that at a time of great emergency and urgent need, such as the post-tsunami crisis, people would set aside their political, ethnic and religious differences and concentrate instead on recovering the dead and coming to the aid of survivors. That they apparently have not done so in Sri Lanka and Indonesia is a grave disappointment. Can we do better here in the Philippines?

* * *

AS is traditional during the Christmas season, both the New People's Army and the Armed Forces of the Philippines called for unilateral ceasefires that both ended early this month.

The Philippine National Red Cross, in a statement issued last Jan. 4, called for an extension of the ceasefire in the provinces of Quezon and Aurora, the areas hardest hit by successive typhoons and mudslides late last year. "The Philippine National Red Cross and other organizations continue to conduct ongoing relief and rehabilitation operations, including health missions, in the area," the Red Cross statement said. "We estimate a necessary rehabilitation and reconstruction period of six months, especially for housing and shelter which include relocation of evacuees to safe areas. This rehabilitation work would be safeguarded, uninterrupted and facilitated were there to be an extended humanitarian ceasefire even only in at least seven municipalities (in the affected provinces), which would allow safe, secure and unimpeded flow of rehabilitation resources and efforts."

The Red Cross calls on the Philippine government and the AFP on one hand, and the National Democratic Front and the NPA on the other, "to immediately declare their respective unilateral humanitarian ceasefires or suspension of offensive military operations for six months or from January to June 2005."

Supporting this call of the Red Cross are other non-government organizations and peace groups, most notably the National Peace Conference. "In light of the great tragedy of the tsunami bringing so much death and devastation globally, and our own smaller-scale but still terrible disaster in Eastern Luzon, we need to focus on saving lives and rehabilitating communities. We ask for this 'humanitarian pause' to enable the safe conduct of critical relief and rehabilitation efforts," the NPC statement said.

* * *

AT THE SAME time, groups supporting the unilateral ceasefires also call on the government and communist rebels to "hold the soonest possible talks for a bilateral humanitarian ceasefire, to agree on mechanics, and to discuss other concrete measures of goodwill and confidence-building for the peace negotiations."

In a statement that is now making the rounds of civil society organizations for signatures, the various groups issued this appeal to both sides of the conflict: "The ceasefire should be a period of national solidarity with victims of disasters, globally as well as in the country, a time for acts of sacrifice, generosity and caring for those most vulnerable and despondent.

"We commit to such solidarity, as we resolve to pursue justice and uproot the exploitative structures that continue to devastate the Filipino people."

* * *

A CONCERT to launch the call for a humanitarian ceasefire, called "Pagbangon sa Unos–Panawagan para sa Kapayapaan" (Peace Concert for a Humanitarian Ceasefire in Calamity Areas) will be held this Saturday, Jan. 22 from 6-9 p.m. at the Conspiracy Garden Café (59 Visayas Ave., Quezon City).

Proceeds from the concert will go to a project on community debriefing for residents in Infanta, Real and General Nakar, including leaders of people's organizations, teachers and children. The project will be implemented by the Mediators Network, the Ateneo Psychology Department and the Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute.

Entrance is free but donations are encouraged. Organizers are also hoping that more sponsors and donors agree to sign on and support this effort to raise public awareness of the need for a humanitarian ceasefire in our own disaster areas. As a support statement puts it: "Give the communities space and time to heal." That is all they ask, and that is the least that they deserve.

Aguinaldo's military tactics

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

THE NATIONAL Library, under Director Prudenciana Cruz, has taken the bold step of establishing e-libraries that will make dissemination of information faster.

I don't quite know how it works, but I guess we are coming closer to the time when I can get on the Internet and browse a book in the Library of Congress in Washington. For starters, we should at least be able to access materials in our own National Library in Manila. All this talk of e-libraries is very exciting, but for a dinosaur like myself, who enjoys physical contact with books, there is no substitute to going to a library and manually checking out a book.

While I have the 55-volume "Blair and Robertson" on CD with a search engine, there is no substitute to holding the individual volumes, flipping its pages, gazing at the old typography, and inhaling the familiar dust that unfortunately triggers an allergic reaction. There is no substitute to library research in the mass of documents covering the Philippine Revolution against Spain and the Filipino-American War, now known as the "Philippine Revolutionary Records" or "PRR." These were returned to the Philippines by the US National Archives almost five decades ago after everything was copied on microfilm. At the time, it was still known as the "P.I.R." or "Philippine Insurgent Records," but since 1998, the US Library of Congress revised history and our struggle, which was once belittled as a "mere insurrection," is now acknowledged, at least in the Library of Congress Classification, as the "Philippine-American War."

A small part of this material was put together at the turn of the 20th century by Capt. J.R.M. Taylor and has since been published in five volumes, with much of the documents translated into English from the original Spanish, Tagalog and other languages. These papers were once filed in brown folders marked "S.D." (for "Selected Documents") and should be available in the National Library for reference when needed.

One of the documents that I hope to read in the original Tagalog one day are instructions to the Sandatahan in Manila, which are said to be in a manuscript completely in Emilio Aguinaldo's handwriting and dated Jan. 9, 1899. There are 12 articles instructing Filipinos on non-conventional warfare, a how-to-attack-the-enemy guide, which is obsolete in our time but, as a historical document, provides a glimpse into Aguinaldo's military tactics. Article 3, for example, is the Pinoy version of the Trojan Horse:

"The chief of those who are to attack the barracks should first send in four men with a good present for the American commander. Immediately thereafter, four others will follow who will make a pretense of looking for the same officer for some reason, and a larger number should be concealed in hidden places and houses in order to aid the other groups at the first signal. This should be done wherever it is possible."

Article 4 states that surprise, decision and courage should complement the force used in the attack. "One or two should go in advance to kill the sentinel by employing some artifice such as dressing like a woman, so that the sentinel may not be able to fire his rifle, thus enabling our Sandatahan to attack other soldiers." Presumably, knives are used in the early part of the attack so that the rest of the barracks are not alerted by unnecessary or ill-timed gunfire.

Article 5 is quite frightening: "At the moment of the attack, the Sandatahan should not attempt to secure rifles from the dead of the enemy, but shall pursue them slashing right and left with bolos, until the Americans surrender and after there remains no enemy who can injure them, they may take the rifles in one hand and the ammunition in the other."

Fighting in the vicinity outside the enemy barracks is also covered by the instructions in Article 6:

"The chiefs shall see that on top of the houses along the streets where the American troops will pass there are placed four to six men who shall be supplied with stones, timbers, red-hot iron, heavy furniture and any other hard and heavy objects which may be thrown on the passing American troops. Great care must be taken not to throw [broken] glass in the streets for the reason that the greater part of our soldiers are barefooted.

"In these houses on each side of the street there will be placed, if possible, groups of soldiers, awaiting the moment of confusion in the enemy's ranks, caused by the throwing of the above-mentioned objects, who will cover a retreat or follow up a rout of the enemy's column, as the case may be. So it is necessary, in order to attain success, that the owners of the houses should prepare and carry out all that has been herein stated."

Women and children are also enjoined to hurl heavy objects from the rooftops at the enemy, or as Article 9 states, to use "boiling water, tallow, molasses and other liquids which shall be thrown on the Americans as they pass in front of the houses by means of hand-pumps, syringes or bamboo tubes."

If you imagine smoke and gunfire during the struggle for independence, think again. How about a torrent of boiling water or *aparadors* coming down from Filipino homes. Now that is real war and not as easy as outlined in our textbooks.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Faith in America

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

PEOPLE have asked why I didn't write a column mourning the reelection of George W. Bush last November. Surprisingly, most of the ones who asked were Americans, some of whom joked that they wanted to migrate and stay permanently in the Philippines rather than live in an America governed by Bush.

Of course, the American friends I have tend to be liberals, mostly serious Democrats who campaigned actively for John Kerry. Throughout the campaign period, their e-mails to me reflected the roller coaster of emotions they were going through, at times feeling it was a losing battle and at other times hopeful optimism that they could get Bush out of the White House. As the campaign came to an end, the public opinion polls showed it was a neck-and-neck battle, so there were still hopes that Kerry would win. He lost, and on Jan. 20, we usher in another four years of Bush, with all kinds of doomsday predictions of more problems for America and the world.

Moral values

With Kerry's defeat, my friends didn't just express sadness but, more often, shame and embarrassment. They knew that throughout the world—in Europe, in Latin America, in Muslim countries—Bush was immensely unpopular, and that his victory reflects badly on the Americans. As one friend put it, "There's only one word to describe it all: stupidity."

Call me naïve but I actually have more faith in America and Americans. Let me explain by focusing on the most often-cited reason why Bush won. When my American friend uttered the remark about "stupidity," she had a copy of the INQUIRER with her. She pointed to the front-page headline, something about "moral values" sweeping Bush to victory. It was actually a reference to exit polls showing that 22 percent of American voters identified "moral values" as the issue that mattered most in their choice for president. Her frustration came from the widespread interpretation that Americans had reelected Bush mainly because of his conservatism, specifically, his opposition to gay marriages, to stem cell research (the use of embryonic cells to produce new treatments for certain diseases) and to abortion.

I'd be more cautious about the labels attached to American voters. I've never liked the term "moral values" because it can be so ambiguous. Even when you name specific moral values, you'll find that a person's position may not always be that clear either.

For example, the same exit polls showing American concern with "moral values" also came out with a startling statistic: 6 out of 10 of those interviewed were actually in favor of same-sex marriage or civil unions. Bush himself, although vehemently opposed to same-sex marriage, actually said in an interview on ABC News, that he was in favor of "legal arrangements that enable people to have rights," which is what civil unions are all about. With civil unions, a lesbian can arrange to have her partner as her beneficiary in insurance or inherit property.

There are other inconsistencies in this "moral values" explanation of Bush's victory. Again, the public opinion surveys show most Americans are in favor of stem cell research. Even California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, a staunch Bush supporter, campaigned actively to allow such research in his state.

Incompetent versus...

No doubt, the conservatives did use this stick-all term "moral values" to mobilize many Americans not so much to support Bush as to defeat Kerry. It's the way these conservatives have been operating all these years anyway, appealing to a fear of the unknown.

This is especially clear in relation to the Iraq war, with Bush's victory interpreted as American public support for the invasion and occupation, and with fears now that Bush's global adventurism will worsen in the next four years.

Again, I'd be cautious here. The Bush camp again used scare tactics, depicting Kerry as weak and saying that this weakness would invite more terrorist attacks. It was a fear of terrorism that eventually overwhelmed Americans. It didn't matter that all the evidence now clearly shows that the invasion of Iraq had nothing to do with al-Qaida or weapons of mass terrorism. All that mattered was that Bush was "proving" to the world that America was tough.

It certainly didn't help either that Kerry had flip-flopped on Iraq. Like most other liberal American politicians, he did support the invasion initially. He wasn't too clear either on many other economic and social issues, while Bush was unyielding with his ultra-conservative views.

In the end, many votes for Bush (as it seems here in the Philippines for Bush's ideological bedfellow Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo) were really more of votes cast for what people thought was the lesser evil. The Economist captured it all with a catchy pre-election cover showing Bush and Kerry and the caption: "The Incompetent versus The Incoherent."

Beginning of the end?

Bush and his camp just might be wrong if they interpret the "moral values" statistics in the exit polls as a mandate for all his conservative positions, including Iraq. Americans are a practical lot. Even Nancy Reagan, who is as conservative as Bush, spoke out in favor of stem cell research as her husband, former President Ronald Reagan, was slowly dying of Alzheimer's, a disease whose cure probably lies with stem cell therapy.

Bush has preached an inward-looking ideology: to hell with what the world thinks, as long as Americans get their way. That, too, appeals to American pragmatism, for now. With time, Americans will realize how dangerous this thinking is, especially if Bush gets more entangled in the Iraqi quagmire and more American soldiers return home in body bags. I actually think that Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida wanted such a victory because an emboldened Bush, becoming more hard-line against Muslims, helps the terrorists to recruit more people for their cause.

Of course, Bush need not worry because like Ms Arroyo, he's not going to be eligible to run again, but if he's thinking of how history will look at him, a reckless and relentless pursuit of his existing policies may just mean the world remembering him as the president who ushered in the beginning of the end of the American empire.

I lived in the United States during the Reagan presidency, with all kinds of doomsday predictions that he would plunge America and the world into disaster. In spite of Reagan, the world in fact moved forward, many countries dismantling the right-wing dictatorships installed by the United States, often with the help of freedom-loving Americans.

We need more faith in America—not in its arms or in its tough talk, but in the ideals of freedom and democracy that many great Americans crafted and tempered into powerful weapons of morality. We need to continue to speak out in defense of those freedoms and in the end, just as the Philippines will survive Ms Arroyo, the world will survive Bush.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

Address tax leakages and exemptions first

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo announced she will last her term, even as she stands on shaky grounds, continually shaken by the political opposition, dissenting soldiers and disgruntled masses.

But she dares to push for the adoption of tax measures that will burden the people more, just so her government will be able to reduce the budget deficit and pay its foreign debt. Even as she has assured that the government has overcome the fiscal crisis that she earlier claimed we were deeply in, there remains the huge budget deficit that she wants to cover up, and she hopes to do this by increasing taxes.

In so doing, the government is seeking to raise the valued added tax, in addition to the already passed "sin taxes" and lateral attrition bill. The government argues that increasing the VAT to 12 percent will solve the "low" VAT collections. But this argument undermines two things: (1) the inefficiency of VAT collections; and (2) the impact of a VAT hike to the ordinary consumers.

Government wants to increase VAT, when it does not address VAT collection leakages and remove exemptions enjoyed by big corporations. VAT in the first place is a regressive tax—taxing both the low-earning and the high-earning entities at the same rate of 10 percent—and yet exemptions are available for big corporations. These leakages and exemptions result into the wide gap between the VAT target collection and the actual VAT collection.

To argue that a VAT increase is progressive, to say that the increase would prevent consumers from buying more, is ridiculous. The point is, the people must have access to basic products and services, which is already hard at this point given the consecutive oil price hikes last year, and the low wages and salaries of workers and employees.

A VAT hike would hit the honest taxpayers—the ordinary consumers—the most. While Ms Arroyo is quick to respond to the prescriptions of the International Monetary Fund (to pass revenue bills), she has not thought about the welfare of the already impoverished Filipino people.

It is bad enough that new taxes would be collected despite a graft and corruption-ridden bureaucracy. It is worse that these taxes would only bring more hardships to the people, who already have to endure inflation, unemployment, bankruptcy and poverty.

Where is government's solution to that?

—ELEANOR DE GUZMAN,
secretary general, Anakbayan,
anakbayan_national@yahoo.com

Rizal was neither gambler nor womanizer

STILL our greatest hero

I WOULD like to comment on the GMA-7 special feature titled "Jose Rizal, the Little Naughty Boy," which was aired on Dec. 27, 2004, and featured a foreigner, named John Paul Nerstaeten, as guest and historical researcher.

It is very disheartening to note that we can easily blemish the character of our greatest national hero, Jose Rizal.

Rizal was not really a gambler. He won the lottery when he was exiled in Dapitan. He invested the money wisely and gave some to his family and poor people. How could Rizal gamble abroad when he was living a Spartan life due to his financial difficulties in Europe?

Although he had 11 sweethearts, he was not really a womanizer. Neither was he a playboy; he never took advantage of them. Women were easily attracted to him because of his chivalry and charismatic intelligence. He did not even sire any child abroad. According to reputable historians, Rizal always reminded his fellow Filipinos in Europe to avoid gambling, womanizing and other vices. He urged them to help the Propaganda Movement instead.

I cannot agree with the allegation of Susanne Jacoby, one of Rizal's sweethearts, that he was a "Bad Little Boy." She even wrote him a love letter when Rizal went to Madrid in July 1890. Rizal had rented her Auntie Marie's apartment at 38 Rue Philippe Champagne, Brussels, Belgium.

On other insinuations, it is also quite unthinkable that Rizal might have been related to Adolf Hitler. It was genetically and racially improbable because of their historical, ideological and geographical differences. Rizal was a man of peace and freedom while Hitler was a man of violence and hate.

As a Knight of Rizal, a professor of a Rizal course and the author of a book on Rizal, I am doing this—defending the integrity, honor, reputation and legacy of our greatest national hero—as a duty.

—LUISITO S. SAN VALENTIN,
chapter commander,
Knights of Rizal,
Pamantasan ng Lungsod
ng Maynila,
Intramuros, Manila

Costs to future generations

THE INQUIRER's Jan. 4 editorial showed our fragmented view of social issues. As a rule, we tend to look at social problems in terms of well-defined, mutually exclusive categories (i.e., economic, social, environmental). As a result, we fail to evaluate the problems and opportunities that our society faces in terms of a single measure of human value.

In the editorial, the INQUIRER grossly understated the economic costs of the recent disasters experienced in the region by conveniently subsuming environmental damage under a separate category.

The truth of the matter is that the environmental costs the editorial enumerated translate into significant economic losses—both in terms of income foregone and lost resources (needed to bring back a semblance of life to our physically ravaged country)—not only for our present but also for our future generations.

—NICETO S. POBLADOR,
P.O. Box 1361,
Baguio City

Age-old question, an answer

"HOW could God let this happen?" This was the title of an article that appeared in the Jan. 7, 2005 issue of the INQUIRER.

It referred to the destruction wrought by the recent tsunami that hit several countries rimming the Indian Ocean. This question has been asked for thousands of years and has been answered a long time ago by Epicurus, by asking the following questions:

Is god willing to prevent evil but unable? Then he is not omnipotent.

Is he able but not willing? Then he is malevolent.

Is he both able and willing? Then whence cometh evil?

Is he neither able nor willing? Then why call him god?

—CARLOS ESTEBAN JR.,
454 Shaw Blvd,,
Mandaluyong City

How about a verb to stop graft?

ONE sure way to stop corruption by civil servants is to write each duty of each employee very specifically, starting with a verb, not with a noun. Thus, instead of "collections," write "receive money with receipt"; "communications," write "draft reply to query"; or "monitoring," write "report at once any anomaly."

Writing the duty specifically makes it easy for the agency head to charge the employee with "neglect of duty" should the latter fail to perform the duty. This would be difficult to do if the duty is written broadly because "collections," "communications" or "monitoring" are not duties but merely activities proper to a group, not an individual civil servant.

If employee duties are written specifically, corruption will stop promptly. Don't you think so?

—T.B. ABAYAN,
13-A Banning St.,
North Fairview, Quezon City

Coco levy funds should benefit their owners

I FULLY agree with former Philippine Coconut Authority chair Oscar F. Santos, who was quoted in the column of Belinda Olivares-Cunanan (PDI, 1/6/05), when he said that the Sandiganbayan "has raised the farmers' hopes that after almost 20 years of struggle, they may soon, during GMA's watch, benefit from the levy funds collected from them 30 or so years ago by decree."

Santos is also absolutely correct when he noted that "many of the farmers have died and many more have grown old." I also subscribe to his comment that "until the farmers actually benefit from the levy, their situation will serve as a continuing indictment of [our] justice system."

Inasmuch as the Sandiganbayan has ruled with finality that the 27-percent San Miguel Corp. shares and the 72-percent UCPB shares sequestered by the government belong to the coconut industry and its farmers, it is but fitting and proper that the funds should benefit the poor coconut farmers.

—CRISOSTOMO B. VILAR,
vice mayor,
Pagsanjan, Laguna

ATO acting on noise pollution

THIS is in response to the column of former Justice Isagani A. Cruz titled, "Noise pollution and the ATO." (1/8/05) Please allow me to state the remedial actions the Air Transportation Office is taking, in consultation with all concerned parties, in addressing this matter.

Last Dec. 8, 2004, the ATO hosted a meeting, participated in by representatives of the Merville Homeowners Association and the concerned airlines particularly Air Philippines and Cebu Pacific, to discuss the noise caused by airplanes using Runway 13/31.

As a result of the meeting, the following measures were adopted and unanimously agreed on:

1. Aircraft without hush kits, specifically the DC-9s and B737-200s, shall not be allowed to take off on Runway 13 on a 24-hour basis.
2. Aircraft without hush kits shall only be allowed to depart on Runway 06/24.
3. Aircraft without hush kits may be allowed only on Runway 13/31 when an aircraft is stalled on Runway 06/24 and other emergencies, which will be determined by the proper authorities.

Contrary to Cruz's insinuations that the ATO is sitting on the problem and blatantly violating environmental regulations on noise pollution, this office, as early as 1999, has continuously and vigorously required the retro-fitting of airplanes with hush kits, in compliance with Annex 6 of the International Civil Aviation Organization.

At present, out of the 11 DC-9 aircraft owned by Cebu Pacific, six (55 percent) have been hush-kitted. Out of six Boeing 737-200s owned by Air Philippines, four (66 percent) have been hush-kitted.

The ATO's target for 2004 was to make sure that 50 percent of the subject aircraft owned by the above-mentioned airlines would have been compliant with the noise abatement requirement. As of Nov. 24, 2004 we had exceeded the target. We expect that all the carriers covered by the regulation will be in full compliance with the said requirement before the year 2006.

—NILO C. JATICO,
assistant secretary,
Air Transportation Office,
Mia Road, Pasay City

Endless corruption

EVERY mature Filipino—when asked why we cannot move forward as a nation—points to corruption as the reason. It is almost ironic, but even those in the government admit this. The businessmen, too, give the same answer; and yet they are the dance partner of rotten government officials in the corruption tango. And the rest of us seem to enjoy watching them dance the tango.

Let's face it. We are all guilty of corruption, if not by commission, by keeping silent about it or by being indifferent to it. We condemn only those who make big, but quite a number of us participate in some petty *lagayan* (bribery), and then still claim we are not corrupt.

Corruption can be very easily proven with the use of Mathematics, but it is very difficult to prove in court. I still have to hear of a congressman convicted of corruption. The ongoing case against Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia has a long way to go. And if it ends up with a conviction, it will make an all-time record.

As long as we have dirty elections, and as long as the same faces (except for a very few) remain in our government service, corruption will be around long after our last days on earth.

In every government transaction involving money, corruption is as axiomatic as the sun rising in the east every day. It is sad to say that corruption is already part of our culture. The only way to eradicate corruption is by subjecting all those in the older generations to the final solution, and let the uncorrupted youth take over the reins of government. But that would be too inhuman.

My solution to the problem is kind of weird but practical in a sense. Let us not consider corruption as a crime. Anyway, corruption has been in our government as far as I can remember, but we seem to make no headway in fighting it.

If corruption is no longer a crime, we will not need the watchdog agencies, such as the Commission on Audit and the Ombudsman. And we can save all the budget allotted for them.

This idea might be stupid. But it's better to be stupid when everybody else is a hypocrite.

—MANOLO A. VILLAREAL,
San Agustin Village,
Ipayawan, Cebu City

PCPPI is now exclusive bottler of Gatorade

Pepsi-Cola Products Philippines, Inc. (PCPPI) has been appointed by PepsiCo Inc. as the exclusive bottler of **Gatorade** for the Philippines starting January 16, 2005.

PCPPI will launch Gatorade, the world's leading sports drink, in five flavours and two-pack formats: 400 ml glass bottles and 500 ml PET bottles.

For all inquiries on Gatorade and other Pepsi products (Pepsi-Cola, Mountain Dew, Mirinda, Seven Up, Mug Rootbeer, Tropicana Juice and Lipton Ice Tea), please call PCPPI at telephone numbers **(02) 850-7927; 0917 326-9023; 0917 846-8070**.

ADVT.

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

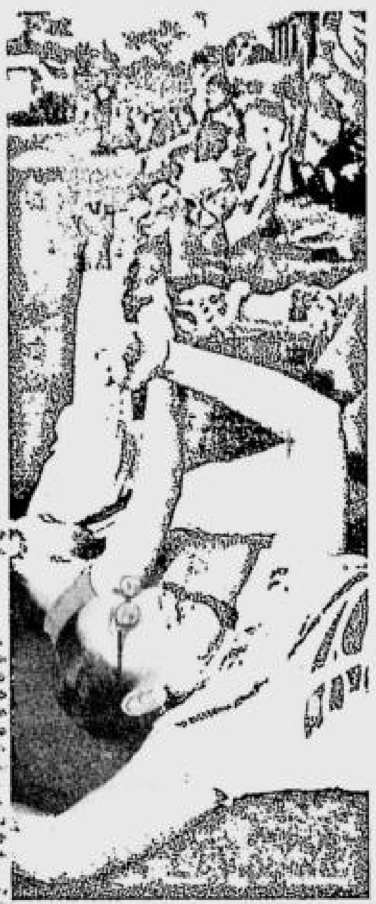
SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: Inquirer atn name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) *Assistant Editor* Tony Bergonia

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph



SYMPATHIZERS of striking Luisita workers bring their case to the streets. PDI PHOTO

Luisita to return to normal, say execs

By Jo Martinez-Clemente
PDI Central Luzon Desk

TARLAC CITY—The management of Central Azucarera de Tarlac (CAT) is now preparing to run its sugar mills and normalize its operations.

Management representatives are also coming back to leaders of the CAT labor union to talk with them but expect to face a new set of officers instead.

In a phone interview, CAT spokesperson Vigor Mendoza said management intends to comply with the DOLE order and is now normalizing its operation.

A press statement sent to the INQUIRER also said management would confer with new labor union officers on how best to hasten the normalization process.

In another statement, the CAT management said it lauds "the strong desire of an overwhelming majority of its workers to return to work."

"The immediate goal now is to normalize CAT's operations and restore its financial health," the statement quoted Mendoza as saying.

Asked about what they referred to as new labor union officers in their press statement and how this would come about, Mendoza admitted they were not really sure what the workers would do.

"It is up to the people (workers) who are ordered to report back to work but as the order also said that the 35 officers are considered no longer in the employ of the company. Accordingly, we expect them to elect new officers. It's a normal procedure." he said.

Corpus, Lapids gird for war on income from lahar quarry

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Retired Lt. Gen. Victor Corpus, chair of the Natural Resources Development Corp., found himself on a collision course against two strong allies of President Macapagal-Arroyo—Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid and his son Pampanga Gov. Mark Lapid.

A conflict between Corpus and the Lapids loomed after the former general on Monday proposed tapping the income from Mt. Pinatubo's sand to re-green the country's forests and prevent a repeat of landslides that killed over 1,000 people in Luzon late last year.

The Lapids vowed they would "do every legally possible means" to stop Corpus from taking control of the multibillion-peso quarry industry in Pampanga.

Corpus presented his agency's "business proposal" to Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao and 10 provincial board members on Monday. Corpus left a draft of a memorandum of agreement for the officials and the governor, who was still in the United States, to study.

Secrecy

In the meeting, held for an hour under closed doors and later opened to reporters, the NRDC chair proposed to undertake an "efficient and transparent" monitoring and collection system targeting a minimum net revenue of P36 million yearly for the provincial government alone.

That projected income is more than four times bigger than last year's P8.5 million generated by the provincial quarry task force, which the elder Lapid chaired during his last six months as governor and his son starting July.

Under the plan, towns, cities and villages will get P100 from the P300 tax for every truckload of sand. Net revenues of local governments reached only P2.5 million.

Corpus guaranteed higher income as operations are improved and the taxing scheme covers more trucks.

Industry sources estimate that 3,000 trucks haul sand daily from Pampanga's quarry sites. That's equivalent to a potential income of P900,000 daily or P25.2 million in 28 days.

Meddler

Senator Lapid, in a text message to the INQUIRER on Monday night, said in Kapampangan: "(Corpus) should concentrate on his fight against illegal loggers. He must not meddle in the local problem of Pampanga."

"Corpus should let Pampanga remedy its mistake and we should not allow a bankrupt government corporation to do it for us," Lapid said.

Governor Lapid, speaking through provincial administrator Fidel Arcenas, said the plan of Corpus violates the Local Government Code of 1991.

VILLAGE tenthaus
THE PIONEER. THE LEADER.
* AWNINGS * CANOPIES * CAR TENTS * GARDEN / PARTY TENTS
* WAREHOUSE TENTS * CAMPING TENTS * SLEEPING BAGS
* PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT * TENT & STAGE RENTAL
TELEFAX : 872-2332
CALL FOR FREE ESTIMATES
LAS PIÑAS CITY 872-3788 | QUEZON CITY 922-0432 | MAKATI CITY 895-5484

Clearance Sale up to 50% discount from Britannica!
As low as P1,850/mo. No DP
The Reference Standard of the World since 1768
- 32 volumes with over 44 million words
- 4,000 expert contributors around the world
- 24 283 illustrations, maps and photos.
Only 39,990 or 59,990
BRITANNICA 32V.
COMPTON'S ENCYCLOPEDIA 26 vols.
CLEARANCE SALE While supply lasts!
Children's Britannica (20 vols.) - P18,990
Encyclopedia of Visual Art (10 vols.) - P9,990
Young Children's Encyclopedia (16v) - P6,990
Britannica Discovery Library (12v) - P3,990
CD-ROM & DVD VIDEO PRODUCTS SALE!
Britannica Concise CD-Rom - P195 only
Fairy Tales (6 stories) in DVD Video - P495 each
39,990 or 44,990
GREAT BOOKS 60V
517 classics by 130 authors
60 volumes of unabridged works of Plato, Shakespeare, Freud & more
Only 29,990
Only 16,990
MY FIRST BRITANNICA 13 vols.
Desk Reference Set (3v)- P5,990
- Brit. Concise Encyclopedia h/c
- 2004 Britannica Almanac h/c
- NW Collegiate Dictionary h/c
Ph: 687-1286, 637-6382, 643-4856 Mob: 0916-4110500 c/o Ariel O. Dizon
Excl. Dist.: High Access Line - Unit 1027 Cityland Shaw Tower, Ortigas, Mand.
(Beside Shangri-la Plaza, Ortigas Ctr.) Email: marq@britannica.com.ph

Lipton Ice Tea added to PCPPI portfolio

Lipton

Pepsi-Cola Products Philippines, Inc. (PCPPI), the exclusive bottler of Pepsi-Cola, Mountain Dew, Mirinda, Seven Up, Mug Rootbeer, Tropicana Juice and Gatorade in the Philippines, has expanded its product portfolio to include **Lipton Ice Tea Powder Catering Pack**.

PCPPI is handling all sales of Lipton Ice Tea to all on-premise outlets (e.g. restaurants, fastfood chains and hotels) nationwide starting this January 2005.

For all inquiries on Lipton Ice Tea and other PCPPI brands, please call PCPPI at telephone numbers **(02) 850-7927; 0917 326-9023; 0917 846-8070**.

ADVT.

LINKSYS®
A Division of Cisco Systems, Inc.
www.linksys.com
Faster Speed! Great Value!
The next Generation begins with G!
Linksys Wireless-G
5X the Speed of 802.11b (54Mbps data transfer rate)

Wireless-G Broadband Router
✓ All-in-one Internet-sharing Router, 4-port Switch, and Wireless-G (802.11g) Access Point
✓ Shares a single Internet connection and other resources with Ethernet wired and Wireless-G clients
✓ Wireless data rates up to 54Mbps - 5 times as fast as Wireless-B (802.11b), but also interoperable with Wireless-B devices (at 11Mbps)
✓ Advanced security: Wi-Fi Protected Access™ (WPA), wireless MAC address filtering, powerful SPI firewall
Model: WRT54G

Wireless-G Notebook Adapter
✓ High-speed Wireless-G (802.11g) networking for your notebook computer
✓ Data rates up to 54Mbps - 5 times faster than Wireless-B (802.11b)
✓ Also interoperates with Wireless-B networks (at 11Mbps)
✓ Advanced wireless security: Wi-Fi Protected Access™ (WPA), and up to 128-bit encryption
Model: WPC54G

Wireless-G USB Network Adapter
✓ Connects your desktop or notebook to a wireless network at up to 54Mbps when used with a USB 2.0 port
✓ Easy, no-tools setup on any desktop or notebook computer with USB support
✓ Also compatible with Wireless-B networks (at 11Mbps)
✓ Wireless communications are protected by up to 128-bit data encryption
Model: WUSB54G

Wireless-G PCI Adapter
✓ Wireless-G (802.11g) connectivity for your desktop PC
✓ Incredible data rates up to 54Mbps in the 2.4GHz radio band
✓ Also interoperates with Wireless-B (802.11b) networks at 11Mbps
✓ Put your PC wherever you want, with no cabling hassle
Model: WMP54G

CISCO SYSTEMS
Distributor: MICROWAREHOUSE
Head Office Tel: (032) 637 0474 - 85 Cebu Office Tel: (032) 253 1026/253 3358 Davao Office Tel: (082) 222 2192

Accountant, driver slain in ambush

COTABATO CITY—A government accountant and his driver were killed in an ambush by still unidentified men in Talitay town in Maguindanao, an area known to be teeming with separatist rebels.

Insp. Pio Valencia, Talitay police investigator, said municipal accountant Amdamin Ungad and his driver Abdul Samaon died in the ambush.

Undad's wife, Sittie, was wounded in the eye and finger.

Valencia said the victims, aboard a Volkswagen car, were on their way to the town hall when waylaid by about six heavily armed men upon reaching Barangay Adaon in Talitay, an area controlled by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

"We have no clue who did it. We were shocked to learn about the incident because my municipal accountant has no known enemies," said Talitay Mayor Cabile Sumagka.

Police found casings of bullets for M-16 and M-14 rifles in the scene.

The attack came just about a week after an Army detachment in nearby Mamasapano town had been overran by MILF rebels, resulting in the killing of 22 combatants.

The MILF belied any link to the ambush of Ungad, saying the attack could be politically motivated.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said the killing apparently had something to do with the town's financial disbursement and political rivalry.

He could not elaborate further.

Kabalu urged lawmen to get to the bottom of the Ungad killing which, he said, could be connected to previous incidents of violence involving Talitay officials.

On Dec. 5, another ambush took place, resulting in the killing of Saidamin Midtimbang, Talitay's Association of Barangay Captains president.

Midtimbang and his wife were inside a pickup travelling along Sinsuat Avenue in front of the Notre Dame of Cotabato College for Girls when motorcycle-riding men shot him. *Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

FINDING JOBS

VAL HANDUMON

Efren Flores turned to fishing after losing his job in a cable television company which paid him P380 a day. His venture into fishing in Bacoor, Cavite is, however, threatened by the use of illegal methods of catching fish, like the use of dynamites.

Firm found operating acid plant without permit

BATANGAS CITY—After discovering the existence of an unregistered and unlicensed acid regeneration plant right inside the 20-hectare property of the Steel Corp. of the Philippines (Steelcorp) in Balayan town, Gov. Armando Sanchez said they were preparing to padlock the Steelcorp for operating 'without any permit and for its long-standing unpaid real property taxes.

Sanchez said he had already ordered the investigation of the acid regeneration plant inside the Steelcorp and that the provincial government is planning to close and padlock not only the plant but also the entire Steelcorp on Jan. 21.

"Enough is enough! Steelcorp hasn't been paying millions of pesos in real property taxes, and now, this? An unlicensed acid regeneration plant inside its facility?" the governor said. "This is too much! Steelcorp should close."

Steelcorp is a subsidiary of Philippine Steel Corp.

The INQUIRER tried to call Philippine Steel Corp. president Tony Lorenzana but he wasn't in his office.

The acid regeneration plant, which was also confirmed by Balayan Mayor Benjie Martinez, has been producing by-products of dirty acid, which was in turn, reused or re-sold by the Steelcorp.

The Steelcorp, located in Barangay Munting Tubig in Balayan town, has been producing galvanized and pre-painted sheets and finishing lines since 1999.

The company has over 500 employees.

"The dirty acid, which is a component in the manufacture of steel products, could be regenerated for re-use," said Evelyn Estigoy, provincial government environment and natural resources officer.

"But the plant has no environmental clearance certificate. And even if it is an expansion of Steelcorp, it should have secured all the needed licenses to operate."

Estigoy added that the acid regeneration plant could produce environmental hazards that could have been affecting the health of residents living near the Steelcorp facility.

According to an INQUIRER source from the Development Bank of the Philippines, a government-owned and -controlled corporation, the acid regeneration plant, which was allegedly overpriced at P500 million, was funded by a Japan aid that was supposed to be used for environmental protection.

The release of a P15-million fund was reportedly facilitated by a high-ranking DBP officer.

In a phone interview with Michelle Curacha, of the DBP's Program Management Department, she confirmed that the bank indeed facilitates the release of funds from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

"But we don't disclose confidential information because we have the bank secrecy law," Curacha said.

According to provincial treasurer Jessie Cantos, the concealing of the acid regeneration plant inside the Steelcorp's 20-hectare facility could have been the management's way to evade taxes and fees on licenses.

She said Steelcorp is now facing about P84 million worth of unpaid real property tax since the first quarter of 2000. "It is only now that we discovered the acid regeneration plant inside the Steelcorp facility. That plant is also liable for taxes and the management tried to hide it. Now, Steelcorp is in bigger trouble," Cantos said.

The unpaid taxes, according to the computation from the municipal treasurer's office of Balayan town, accumulated from the balances of real property taxes on Steelcorp's machinery and equipment since the first quarter of 2000.

Although the Steelcorp has been prompt in paying its taxes on the machinery and equipment, the amount the company paid was not sufficient, as it only paid the taxes based on the acquisition cost of the property, not the prevailing costs.

In 1997, the Steelcorp acquired its machinery and equipment and had them installed in 1998 at the Balayan plant.

A ruling of the Bureau of Local Government Finance under the Department of Finance dated Feb. 2, 2000 said the properties should be based on the acquisition cost at that time, converted at the average rate then prevailing.

Since then, the provincial government has been demanding the Steelcorp to pay its unpaid taxes. *Mei Magsino-Lubis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Cavite execs face raps over medicine purchase

CALAMBA CITY—Cavite Gov. Ireneo "Ayong" Maliksi and at least four other Cavite officials could face graft and corruption charges after the legal department of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office discovered certain irregularities in the purchase of medicines funded by the agency for the provincial government almost two years ago.

Documents obtained by the INQUIRER said that lawyer Lauro Patiag, PCSO legal department chief, had asked PCSO resident Ombudsman Ronald Doctor to investigate the supposed anomalous deal involving the P2.5-million financial grant that the agency gave Maliksi, on behalf of the Cavite capitol, to fund several health programs "specifically for the purchase of medicines."

Motives

Maliksi, however, said the accusations against him and his office are "politically motivated."

Maliksi said in an interview that his political opponents are "doing everything to pique and malign me for their own personal interests.".

"My conscience is clean. What is important here is that the money went to whoever must benefit. Not a single cent went to anybody's pocket," Maliksi said.

Patiag said his recommendation was based on the "feedback report" submitted by Teresita Brazil, a manager of the PCSO Fund Allocation Department, on June 25, 2003.

In a handwritten letter to new PCSO chair Sergio Valencia dated Dec. 1, 2004, Patiag said "no complaint has been prepared as the matter [was] still under investigation by the resident Ombudsman."

"The report reveals that an irregularity in the purchase of medicines and its distribution may have been committed and it involves some government officials," Patiag said in his letter, dated Nov. 11, 2004.

The P2.5-million grant was part of the P10-million grant that the PCSO gave to the Cavite government in support of President Macapagal-Arroyo's P14.2-million health assistance for Cavite, which she approved on June 27, 2002.

The grant was made through a memorandum of agreement (MOA) signed by then PCSO chair Honey Girl de Leon and Maliksi on Feb. 4, 2003.

The MOA said the aid would be appropriated for 12 months, at P2.5 million every quarter.

Maliksi received the first installment the day the MOA was signed.

The discovery of the irregularities contained in Brazil's report was culled from the "status report" done by PCSO's finance division.

Installment

The report was made in June 2003 after one of Maliksi's staffers requested for the release of the second installment of the grant.

In its report, the finance division noted that the distribution of the medicines happened during the annual convention of the barangay health workers on Nov. 26, 2002 as attested to by Nina Lagac, Maliksi's chief of staff.

The event took place three months before the MOA signing.

Maliksi's office submitted to PCSO a sales invoice, which showed that the medicines were bought on Feb. 4, 2003.

Maliksi said he really allotted the first P2.5 million of the grant to the annual barangay convention after learning that Ms Arroyo approved the financial assistance.

"After the President gave us the grant, I talked with provincial health officer (Dr. Vilma Diez) and asked her what the BHW needed. And she gave us the proposal. In fact, she was the one who made the proposal," Maliksi said.

Brazil said an interview with several individuals showed that the kits did not contain the medicines as stipulated in the report from the governor's office. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

CPP spokesman confirms slay plot on farmer

LUCENA CITY—Communist Party of the Philippines spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal has confirmed the fear of Dioscoro Tejeno, a farmer from the Bondoc Peninsula in Quezon, that New People's Army rebels are out to liquidate him.

"Yes, that's true. The NPA Maria Theresa de Leon Command in Bondoc Peninsula area will really kill him once there is an opportunity," Rosal said in a mobile phone interview.

He, however, quickly clarified that Tejeno's family is free to return to the area.

"I assure him that his family will not be molested by the Red fighters in the area as long as they will not allow themselves to be a tool of the military against the revolutionary movement," he said.

Rosal identified Tejeno as a former member of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit in the Bondoc Peninsula.

He said the farmer was an active participant in the military's anti-insurgency campaigns.

On Monday, the Akbayan party-list group presented Tejeno to the media in Congress and reported that the farmer and his family had been in hiding for a year now for fear of the NPA, which, according to the farmer, was out to assassinate him.

Tejeno was introduced by Akbayan as an avid advocate of the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, a land reform program that the NPA dismissed as bogus.

But Rosal explained that Tejeno was being hunted by the NPA not for his agrarian reform stand but for his anti-revolutionary and criminal activities.

"From the report that we have received from the NPA Maria Theresa de Leon Command, Tejeno is a paid hack of the military and big landlords in the Bondoc Peninsula and has committed numerous crimes against the hapless residents," he said.

"He cannot escape his crimes against the people and the revolutionary movement," Rosal added.

He lambasted Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales for obfuscating the truth behind Tejeno's hiding in Manila.

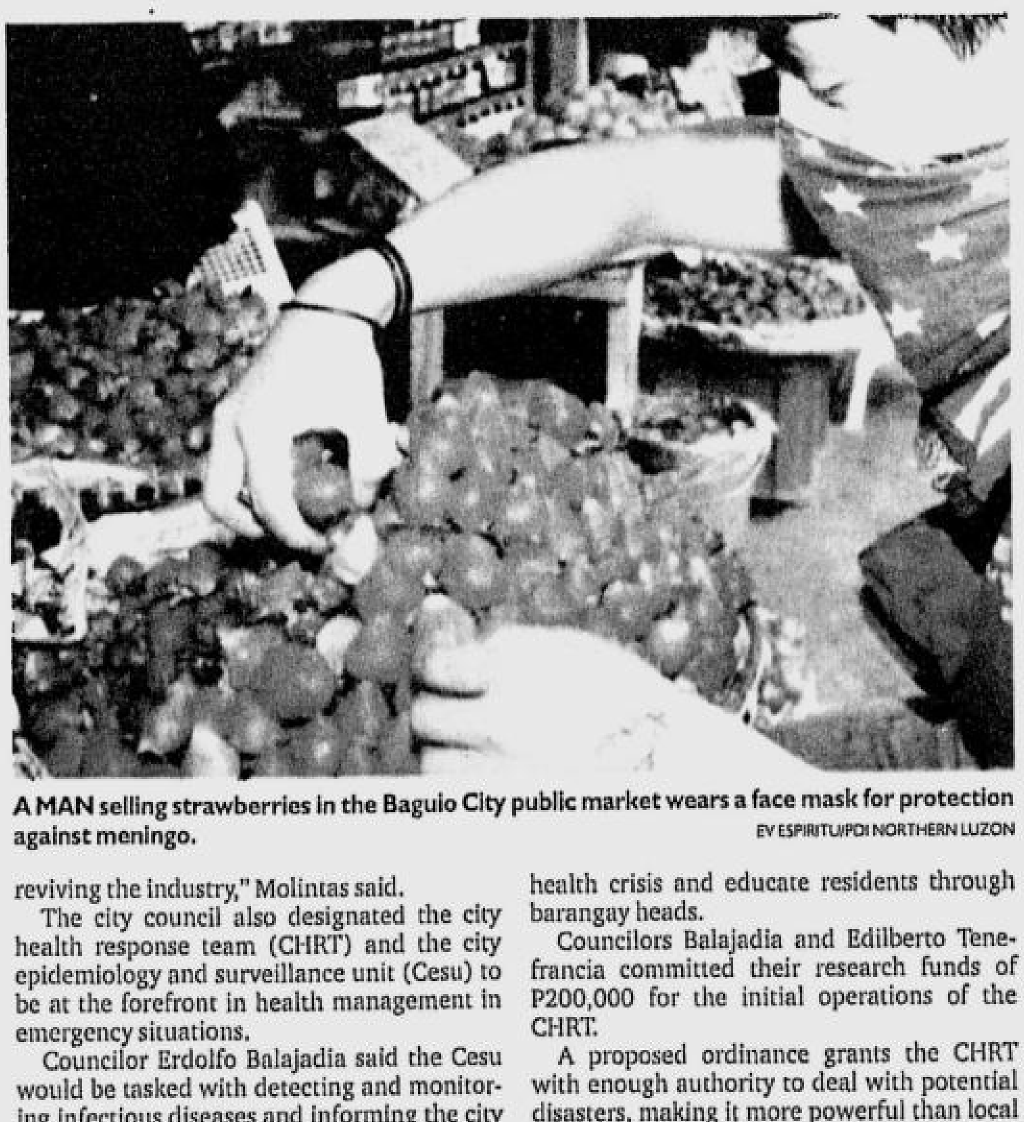
"His (Tejeno's) being an Akbayan member is of no consequence to us," Rosal said.

He said some of the still-unsolved killings of progressive leaders in the Bondoc Peninsula area had been attributed to Tejeno's armed group.

Maj. Gen. Pedro Cabuay, commander of the military's Southern Luzon Command based in Camp Nakar here, said the military would provide security to Tejeno if he really wants to return to Bondoc Peninsula. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Baguio scrambles to recover from meningo

By Frank Cimatu and Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau



A MAN selling strawberries in the Baguio City public market wears a face mask for protection against meningo.

EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON

BAGUIO CITY—The city government, the Department of Tourism and schools are scrambling for a recovery program for the city with the waning of the meningococcemia scare.

Dr. Luningning Villa, spokesperson of the meningococcemia command post here, said meningococcal diseases, which include both meningococcemia and meningitis, are on the wane in the Cordillera.

Villa said there were 14 cases of suspected meningococcal diseases in Benguet with the last case recorded on Jan. 11. Mt. Province had 12 suspected cases with the last case recorded on Jan. 9.

Villa said these two provinces could lift their respective meningococcemia alerts this week. Baguio City, however, will have to wait until Jan. 23 with one case reported on Jan. 13.

There have been no new meningococcemia cases recorded in the city since Monday, Villa said.

She said there were nine deaths in the Cordillera in January—four in Mt. Province, three in Benguet and two in Baguio. There have been, however, no deaths reported since last week.

Even then, Baguio is trying to bounce back from the scare.

The tourism industry, which lost 90 percent of its local and foreign tourists since cases were reported in November, has embarked on a recovery program.

Purificacion Molintas, DOT Cordillera director, said they would come out with a tourism promotion event every week to attract tourists anew.

"We are rebuilding (from) the damage and reviving the industry," Molintas said.

The city council also designated the city health response team (CHRT) and the city epidemiology and surveillance unit (Cesu) to be at the forefront in health management in emergency situations.

Councilor Erdolfo Balajadia said the Cesu would be tasked with detecting and monitoring infectious diseases and informing the city immediately.

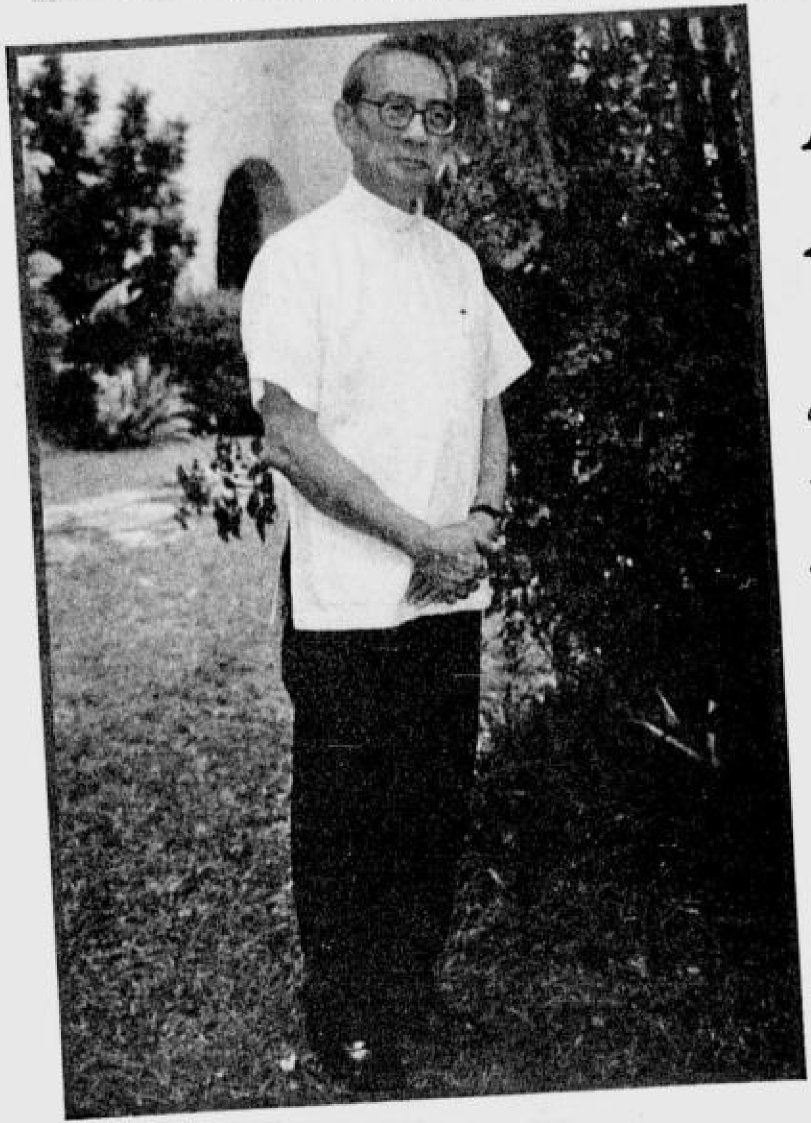
The CHRT will manage and respond to the health crisis and educate residents through barangay heads.

Councilors Balajadia and Edilberto Tenefrancia committed their research funds of P200,000 for the initial operations of the CHRT.

A proposed ordinance grants the CHRT with enough authority to deal with potential disasters, making it more powerful than local health boards, Tenefrancia told fellow councilors during the regular session.

INQUIRER Northern Luzon
E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

A Don Quixote fights the 'jueteng' windmill



LINGAYEN-DAGUPAN Archbishop Oscar V. Cruz
RAY ZAMBRANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

> 'If we have to legalize jueteng, we have to legalize *tupada* (backyard cockfights), *tong-its, dama, cara y cruz* and spider fights'

HE COULD have been a Don Quixote fighting the "jueteng" windmill all on his own.

For more than two years now, Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop ***Oscar Cruz****, national chair of the Krusada ng Bayan Laban sa Jueteng, has been carrying the fight against the illegal numbers game.*

But Cruz, also a former president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, says the targets of his criticism, most of them local and police officials, have turned a deaf ear to his calls to stop jueteng. Even a fellow bishop has gone against Cruz's position by calling for the legalization of the game.

Cruz, 70, admits it is a lonely fight and that he may never win. He may even lose his life because of this crusade, but he says he is determined to fight to the end.

In an interview with INQUIRER Pangasinan correspondent ***Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes****, Cruz explains why he took on the advocacy and why he will continue doing it.*

When was the Krusada ng Bayan Laban sa Jueteng formed?

It was launched [in April 2002] in Dagupan City with representatives from the academe, civic organizations, religious and the government.

We were 37, which we found out later was the number of [digits involved in] jueteng. This we discovered a year later. I assumed that we knew how jueteng was played, but it turned out not one of us knew [how]. This was the reason we [learned] about the magical number only a year after the group was formed.

Is the crusade against jueteng your first advocacy?

No. When I was a young priest, my crusade was against prostitution because I was assigned in the Ermita district [in Manila]. We had the Morning Glory Apostolate. We called it such because the women who became "flesh traders" were only popular when they were in their youth, their [so-called] morning. During their sunset, when they are sick [or old], nobody minds them. They are at the mercy of anybody and everybody. When I was already a bishop, my campaign [was directed at] misbehaving members of the church.

What prompted you to launch the crusade against jueteng?

It was President Joseph Estrada's removal from office [in 2001] when he was accused of receiving at least P2 million a month in jueteng payola. The group [Krusada] was formed because of the awareness of how jueteng has gone from the simple barangay to national level.

Before the Estrada ouster, I thought jueteng was just a simple, ordinary entertainment. [I thought it was] a poor man's game, hurting no one and damaging no institution. But we know better now that jueteng payola goes [to] political campaigns, to political budgets. A [big part] of jueteng payola does not only go to political office holders—the barangay, town, province, region—but we know for a fact that [it] also goes to [members of] the Philippine National Police.

Why do you believe that political and police officials are behind jueteng?

Not all government and police officials [are behind jueteng] but a good number of them, especially those in higher ranks, are. It is impossible for [jueteng and "masiao"] to thrive without their tolerance or protection.

Now jueteng is more widespread and more deeply rooted, its operators have become more audacious and more dangerous. It is a moral impossibility to say that there is only a handful of public officials and police [authorities] behind it.

Some say jueteng is the Filipino's favorite pastime and is actually a harmless game. So they wonder why you are strongly against it.

That's what I thought, too. Now I would like to say once and for all that jueteng kills people. It has killed some media workers; it has killed a town mayor (referring to a mayor in Ilocos Norte supposedly killed because of jueteng]. It has killed a good number of *cobradores* (bet collectors) who did not remit the funds. So for those who think jueteng is innocent, let them know this—that it corrupts public officials, police officials [from the local] to the national level.

[Jueteng] corrupts political exercises such as elections. It is not a laughing matter, not an innocent game, and it is not only for entertainment purposes. It's a dangerous and cancerous activity.

You said jueteng is a nationwide activity, but since you are based in Pangasinan, the impression is that this is the only province where jueteng thrives.

First, I will not be here forever. That is good news (laughs). Second, there are a lot of announcements (public statements) of bishops from other places. I have announcements on a national level but for one reason or another, [some] do not get published. Pangasinan must not feel bad that it is mentioned because I'm here. But a good number of statements are not about Pangasinan except when there's a survey [on jueteng]. But I mean no malice and I do not want to offend anybody that's why I said [the survey] should be validated. I also ask for forgiveness [if the data was wrong].

The local and police officials in Pangasinan are hurting because of your statements.

I'm sorry if I offend them but my intention is not to go after their persons but to go against their deeds. All people are very precious to God, and I am nobody to condemn anybody. I'm just saying that what some people do are hurting others and, consequently, they should be at least reminded. I do not think I am above anybody as far as God is concerned. I'm just saying that if something is wrong, it is wrong and should be corrected as much as possible.

Some say that you are using the jueteng issue to embarrass President Macapagal-Arroyo.

That's not true. The move against [former President] Estrada was very strong in Pangasinan and I headed that. I knew then that [Ms Arroyo] was the successor and I had no problem with that. I only thought that [since] jueteng was the trigger in the downfall of her predecessor, she would have taken it into consideration. But, after two or three years of occupying the presidency, I still have to hear her talk and act against jueteng. She has spoken and acted against anything that you can imagine but up to now, we do not know for sure why [Ms Arroyo has not acted on jueteng]. I'm not saying she is pro-jueteng but she does not seem to be against it either.

My not appreciating her has nothing to do with the presidency. For all I care she can occupy it forever. It started when she said she would not run [for president] anymore, saying this was a decision [she arrived at] after asking for guidance from above. All of a sudden, she ran, citing also the guidance from above. I was a little disoriented because [she showed that] God talks one thing now and talks another the next day, which I think is sacrilegious.

Many people are irritated with you because of your antijueteng stand.

I know that. You fight evil and evil fights back. It's too [inappropriate] for them to clap their hands. It is unthinkable for those who are on target to laugh or smile. I understand them for that. I do not hold grudges against them, no evil against their person. My only crusade is against what they do.

I hope they will realize that when the time comes [to] hand back their lives to God, they will be able to face God squarely and say that they lived their lives well. Nobody is immortal here. Even the highest authority as well as the smallest man on the street will have to render an account [of their lives unto God]. Whether we like it or not, there is God.

Why do you need to have an advocacy unlike the other priests who merely do their regular priestly obligations?

Because if we study the work of Christ, if Christ did not go after evil, He would not have been crucified. If He did not denounce corrupt political power, if He did not denounce corrupt pious monks, then I think it could have been an easy, peaceful, serene and happy life for Him. Christ had three missions—to teach, to sanctify, and to denounce social wrongdoings. That made Him unpopular and He was nailed to the cross.

One of your fellow bishops is calling for the legalization of jueteng. Is the Church divided on the issue of illegal gambling?

That's [Caloocan City] Bishop [Deogracias] Iñiguez. His stand is that—if jueteng is legalized, there will not be too much graft and corruption. Consequently, he said, to stop corruption only [among] police, the local officials and media, let's have it legalized. In fairness to [Iñiguez], he has good intentions. But if we have to legalize jueteng, we have to legalize *tupada* (backyard cockfights), *tong-its, dama, cara y cruz* and spider fights. It sends a bad signal that since you cannot stop it, you legalize it. It will show the incompetence of the government.

You have received death threats because of your crusade against jueteng. Are you not afraid?

Since I was a priest, I had had no security, no Army [escort], no nothing, not even a *rebentador* (firecracker). And yet the truth speaks for itself. When Jesus said the truth will set you free, He [was] not joking, you know. Truth does not respect time, does not respect status of person, privileges or ranking, nor social standing. In all [my] crusades I have nothing but the truth. That is all I have and I think that's good enough.

Do you think you can win the fight against jueteng?

Whether I succeed or not is not the issue. Up to now, Ermita has prostitution, I guess. Up to now there are still priests who violate their commitments and up to now I have not won the jueteng crusade. But I take consolation in the fact that even Christ was a failure, humanly speaking, because He got only 12 followers and even one of them betrayed Him. Up to now what He preached in the Gospel are not yet all fulfilled by people. So if I succeed or fail is not the issue. The issue is that I did not behave like the three monkeys who did nothing, saw nothing, said nothing and heard nothing.

I did something and I hope that others will do the same because this is the only way that we can keep society in check.

FRAUD DETECTION
Build a solid foundation against SCAM in a 3-day seminar
☐ CRIMINOLOGY
☐ INVESTIGATION
- INTERVIEW & INTERROGATION
- LIFESTYLE
☐ CORPORATE GOVERNANCE (PHILS.)
☐ LEGAL ELEMENTS
☐ FRAUDULENT FINANCIAL TRANS.
- FORENSIC ACCOUNTING
- USE OF SOFTWARE IN FRAUD
- CYBER FRAUD
Jan. 27-29, 2005 9 AM-5 PM Please contact us for details
CERTIFIED FRAUD EXAMINERS DIVISION
TRUTH VERIFIER SYSTEMS, INC.
Tels. 635-5929 / 635-5985 Fax 634-7569 Email truthn mozcom.com

Calling all parents, students, professionals and school officials...
Want to know more about studying in the United States?
JOIN Study USA 2005
Meet representatives and admission officers from
HAWAII PACIFIC UNIVERSITY
SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO
Attend free counseling sessions & presentations on educational opportunities
February 5, 2005 • Saturday
OAKWOOD PREMIER AYALA CENTER
7th Floor Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City
9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
For more details on how to join Study USA and to pre-register visit the U.S. Commercial Service Manila website below this ad
Deadline for Pre-Registration: January 31, 2005.
http://www.buyusa.gov/philippines/en/philstudents.html
PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED • FREE ADMISSION

NOTICE TO QUEZON CITY TAXPAYERS
Serbisyong Bayan SB Lungsod Quezon
THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE LAST DAY FOR PAYMENT OF BUSINESS TAXES AND FEES IS ON JANUARY 20, 2005.
The City Treasurer's Office is open on Thursday, January 20, 2005, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. to receive payments.
(Sgd). Victor B. Endriga, Ph. D.
City Treasurer

DUAL LITE Made in USA
Life Safety Solutions
Preferred by Architects and Designers
EMERGENCY LIGHTING
-Compact, Stylish, Durable
-Maintenance-free, pure lead battery (1 Year Warranty)
-UV-stable thermoplastic housing
-Easy to Install (No Screws)
EXIT SIGNS
<EXIT>
-Universal Mount (Ceiling, Wall, Side)
-Long-life LED lamps (Provides over 20 years of service)
-Energy-saving operation
-Compact, Snap-together design (No Screws)
-Maintenance-free nickel cadmium battery (1 Year Warranty)
*For Hotels, Business/Commercial Buildings, Condominiums, Hospitals, Schools, Restaurants, Retail Shops, etc.
Cenit Lighting Philippines, Inc.
670 Florentino Torres St., Sta. Cruz, Manila 1003
Tel.: (02) 733-8351 to 56 Fax: (02) 734-1088
E-mail mail@cenitlighting.com Website www.cenitlighting.com

WB: Water pollution costs RP P67B/yr

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE COST of water pollution to the economy runs up to P67 billion a year, higher than what the government loses from nonpayment of the value-added tax by some companies.

This was revealed yesterday by Bukidnon Rep. Miguel Zubiri, citing a 2003 World Bank study on the state of Philippine waters.

Zubiri urged the government to look into the question of abating water pollution, saying economic losses as a result of its effects on health, fishing and tourism could be heavy.

The study shows that up to 58 percent of ground water is contaminated with coliform and needs to be treated.

As a result, water-borne diseases, such as diarrhea and cholera, down some 50,000 people annually, costing P3.3 billion a year in medical expenses and loss of income, he said.

Already, three in every 10 illnesses are caused by water-related diseases.

Creeping pollution of seas and rivers is also exacting a heavy toll on the production of fish, the main source of cheap protein for Filipinos.

Fishing grounds contaminated

Also, the economy loses an average of P17 billion a year due to what the World Bank has described as the "degradation of the fisheries environment."

This is not unexpected as some of the 2.4 million metric tons of organic waste generated annually find their way to fishing grounds, Zubiri said.

At present, only one percent of rivers monitored by the government has a Class AA classification, meaning waters drawn from these sources must still be disinfected to make them fit for drinking.

Pristine seas

Zubiri said the World Bank also pegged at P47 billion annually the "avoidable losses" to tourism that water pollution causes.

Using tourism receipts and tourism-related employment as basis, the World Bank arrived at the said amount in computing the opportunity loss for tourist spots that the contamination of pristine "sea [and] sand" spots may cause.

"In Metro Manila, we have to address the fact that only 18 percent of waste water generated by households was captured by sewerage systems. The rest is flushed into the natural cesspool we call Manila Bay," Zubiri said.

Better tax collection

He stressed that funds needed to fight water pollution would have to come from better tax collection.

"While people may be averse to paying new taxes, they have no qualms in paying P10 to P20 for a gallon of drinking water," he said.

Satellite tracks down …

From page A1

and these invertebrates are a major part of leatherbacks' diet."

The group's media officer, Louella Beltran, said that with this latest sighting, it was reasonable to expect more turtles to be foraging in the area.

Like a lost child

For conservationists, she said, tracking down a rescued animal via satellite months after its release" is like seeing your child to be safe and well after leaving home, that he's okay and has gone to places you never thought he could reach."

There were at least nine more leatherbacks with tracking devices that had been released from Indonesia alone last year, she said.

The wired-up turtles basically beam up signals to a satellite "in real time," then the signals get sent as global coordinates back to a computer, according to Beltran.

Need for cooperation

The movement of this particular turtle was tracked down halfway across the world, by the National Marine Fisheries Services in California, USA, she added.

WWFP reported the spotting of 27961 to drum up its campaign for increased cross-border cooperation among the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia for the protection of sea turtles and other threatened wildlife.

The three countries share the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion, an area known in the scientific and conservation community for its unmatched ecological value, the group said.

Journey of a thousand miles

The SSME is home to five of the seven remaining and endangered marine turtles in the world, it added.

"It takes a journey of a thousand miles for a single turtle to prove that environmental conservation goes beyond borders," the group stressed.

WWFP's counterparts in Indonesia—one of the remaining principal nesting sites of leatherbacks (*Dermochelys coriacea*) in the world—have confirmed that after 27961 was tagged," she headed straight for the Philippines."

Threats to leatherbacks

"It seems like Philippine waters is a critical foraging habitat for Papuan leatherbacks," the group quoted Creusa Hitipeuw, Marine Species Coordinator of WWF-Indonesia, as saying.

Leatherbacks are highly migratory animals, and like other Asia-Pacific marine turtles, they may have a foraging strategy that takes them from the Philippines to Japan and all the way to the US West Coast.

"Because leatherbacks only spend a very short time in their breeding area, threats outside the nests, such as foraging grounds and migratory routes, should be identified," Hitipeuw said.

Killed for their meat

"Satellite tracking will determine those critical sites where they may encounter dangers. This information will be used to influence regional and international policies for their protection."

Researchers estimate that more than 50,000 marine turtles are killed for their meat and ovaries each year in Southeast Asia and the South Pacific, although in most countries only their eggs are consumed.

An WWF study, titled Money Talks: Economic Aspects of Marine Turtle Use and Conservation, found that sea turtle eco-tourism brings in almost three times as much money as the sale of turtle products, such as meat, leather and eggs.

The study also showed that worldwide decline in sea turtle populations jeopardizes jobs, tourism and coastal economies, especially in developing countries, two-thirds of which hosts sea turtles.

Hi-tech security for Bush fete

WASHINGTON—Miles from the Capitol where President George W. Bush will take the oath of office, dozens of officials from 50 federal, state and local agencies will work side by side in a high-tech command center keeping close tabs on the security situation for the first presidential inauguration since the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks.

At 120 work stations in the northern Virginia center and using giant video screens, law enforcement and security personnel will be able to watch from cameras that monitor downtown Washington streets, keep track of aerial surveillance flights and check sensors scanning for evidence of deadly biological or chemical agents.

"This is probably the heaviest security we have ever had in D.C.," said Jim Rice, the FBI supervisory agent for Thursday's inauguration. "The President is going to get out and walk down the middle of the street, and we're at war. Security is going to be airtight."

"If there is a piece of technology that exists, we've put it to use for this event," he said.

The goal is to make the inaugural event appear much as it has in the past, with an open-air swearing-in ceremony and an opportunity for the President to get out of his armored limousine along the parade route from the Capitol to the White House.

For the first time, the federal agencies will be under the command of a "principal federal officer" reporting directly to Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge.

The idea is to improve coordination among the various federal agencies, especially if there is a terrorist attack or other major disruption and there is an immediate need for such things as medical attention for casualties and hostage rescue.

Law enforcement officials say that placing all officials under one roof will eliminate confusion and duplication, as well as enable them to quickly determine whether there's a real threat or if it's just a false alarm. *AP*

Bush $40-M bash slammed

From page A1

centage points.

Cold luncheon

"I just think that the sobriety of the times dictate that we be mindful of the imagery of these things," said Democratic Rep. Anthony Weiner of New York.

Weiner wrote Bush suggesting that the inaugural funds be sent to the troops in Iraq, some of whom have complained of having to scrounge for scrap metal to protect their vehicles.

"Precedent suggests that inaugural festivities should be muted—if not canceled—in wartime," Weiner wrote, noting that in 1945 Franklin D. Roosevelt limited the celebration to a cold luncheon at the White House.

His frugal housekeeper served cold chicken salad, rolls without butter, poundcake and coffee. Roosevelt, who was not feeling well, got through the occasion by sending his son James to his room to smuggle him a tumbler of bourbon.

But that was not the norm during other wars.

James Madison, who held the first inaugural ball in 1809, held another during the War of 1812 after giving an angry inaugural address denouncing the British.

In 1865, after Lincoln gave his famous address promising to bind the nation's wounds and care for Civil War soldiers' orphans and widows, he shook hands with 6,000 people at a White House reception.

Festivities defended

Bush rejected the criticisms.

"It's important that we celebrate a peaceful transfer of power .... You can be equally concerned about our troops in Iraq and those who suffered at the tsunamis (and) with celebrating democracy," Bush said in a CBS News interview.

"There's ways for us to honor the soldier and, at the same time, celebrate," he added.

President Lyndon Johnson did not eschew pageantry in 1965, racking up a $1.6-million bill for inaugural festivities despite the Vietnam War, historian Robert Dallek noted.

Political scientist George Edwards said he didn't fault the President's supporters for indulging in a little splendor but said the huge donations feed a cynical view of the influence of special interests.

Donors to the celebrations include corporations such as Ford Motor Co., Marathon Oil and Northrop Grumman as well as lobby groups like the American Bankers Association and the National Association of Home Builders.

For foreign diplomats, it's part of their job to go to the party—but they don't have to like the host. Some of them once hoped Bush would be swept out of office.

Much depends upon where each country stands on the Iraq war and whether it was one of the many nations that refused to send troops.

All in a day's work

"We are looking forward to continuing that relationship in the second Bush administration," said Australian Ambassador Michael Thawley, whose nation was one of the few contributing invasion troops.

Less enthused are those who were snubbed after their nations balked at the war.

"It's a diplomat's job to work with the high-ranking officials in each country," a diplomat from one such nation said only on condition her name and country not be mentioned. "We might have a personal opinion, but it's not up to us to elect the president—it's up to the American people. And the one they choose will be the one we will pay honors."

Scalpers' sense of history

For others without tickets to the inaugural events, they can poke around the Internet, where capitalism is alive and well through dozens of scalpers.

One such entrepreneur, Yianni Konstantopoulos, a health care consultant with the World Bank, came up with plenty of tickets to offer for sale, including a prized pair for the bleachers opposite the presidential parade reviewing stand at the White House. Konstantopoulos said he obtained the pair at no cost from a buddy who paid the face value, $250, for the tickets and is unable to attend.

Lucrative opportunity

Konstantopoulos is selling the tickets for $1,000.

For average citizens, the parade has been the favorite event, as hundreds of thousands of spectators have lined Pennsylvania Avenue over the years to watch the motorcade and the marching bands that follow.

"The way I see it, there's a lucrative opportunity in everything," Konstantopoulos said. "And this is a historic event." *Inquirer wires, New York Times News Service*

Fewer Pinoys are hungry; SWS says drop due to scrimping by poor

From page A1

53 percent in August to 48 percent.

The SWS said the all-family-median home expense level needed by a family so as not to be considered poor dropped from P10,000 in the previous years to only P5,000 per month.

Malacañang released the SWS survey results together with a statement from Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

"We will not stop until there is adequate food on every table," Bunye said in the statement.

"Our agricultural programs will be pushed harder with the development of two million new productive hectares for agri and aqua cultures, and we will make sure that products reach the market in the fastest and most efficient way," he said.

The SWS said 1,200 household heads were interviewed face to face for the survey and asked questions about the family's poverty and hunger.

The survey had a margin of error of 3 percent and 6 percent for the national and regional levels.

Severe or moderate

The SWS said severe hunger—defined as experiencing hunger often or always in the last three months—decreased to 2.2 percent last December from 3.3 percent in August.

Families who experienced moderate hunger—or having nothing to eat once or a few times in the last three months—also declined to 9.1 percent in December from 11.8 percent in August.

Total hunger—or the sum of severe and moderate hunger—stood at 11.5 percent in December or 3.6 percent less than the number of hungry families in August. But the SWS said this was still above the 1998-2004 average of 10 percent.

Total hunger was highest in Mindanao at 16.3 percent. The Visayas registered 13 percent, followed by Luzon at 9 percent, and Metro Manila at 8.7 percent.

The SWS reported that families consisting entirely of adults had lower hunger levels (10.1 percent) compared to families with members below 18 years old (11.9 percent).

"The difference of 1.8 percent, called the child-hunger gap, is attributable to the fact that children are relatively less able to contribute to the family income," the SWS said.

The average child-hunger gap was 3.3 percent from 1998 to 2004. This means that the gap declines as the schooling of the household head increases, the SWS said.

Here's the catch

Self-rated poverty threshold, or the monthly budget that households say they need in order not to be poor, has decreased from previous years.

But there was a catch. "Since the cost of living is actually rising, a declining poverty threshold means that households are lowering their living standards—in other words, belt-tightening," the SWS said.

It said the median poverty threshold in Metro Manila was still P10,000 in the new survey even though it had reached up to P15,000 several times in previous years.

For the poor in Mindanao, the median poverty threshold was P3,000 compared to P5,000 or more in the past years. For the poor in the Visayas and in the rest of Luzon, the threshold is currently at P5,000 when it had stood at P10,000 in earlier years.

Higher poverty threshold

The SWS said people who did not rate themselves as poor tended to give higher thresholds for poverty.

Ms Arroyo has vowed to stamp out poverty within a decade.

By the reckoning of the World Bank, half of the Philippines' 84 million population live on less than $2 a day. *With an AFP report*

House OKs fiscal incentives bill; VAT measure next

From page A1

P200 billion, S&P also lowered on Monday the country's short-term local currency rating to B from A-3 but affirmed its short-term B foreign currency sovereign credit rating. The outlook was stable.

Palace's promises

Malacañang yesterday vowed to speed up government reforms, including the passage of fresh tax laws.

The S&P downgrade came in the "middle of urgent reforms," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said, noting that the government remained confident "it will be reversed in full recognition of our comprehensive fiscal program."

Bunye acknowledged the government "must strike up the tempo of reforms." "We shall continue to work hard with Congress on new taxes and push administrative measures to raise revenue and cut waste in government," he said in a statement.

Despite the credit rating downgrade which will make it more expensive for the government to borrow abroad, Bunye said President Macapagal-Arroyo had no intention of revamping her team of economic managers, saying she was "quite satisfied" with their work.

BSP warning

Still, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura warned the country may now find it difficult to access longer-term loan facilities in the international debt market due to the downgrade.

The government needs to borrow some $4 billion in 2005 to finance maturing obligations, and failure to do so could deplete the BSP's dollar reserves.

But with the ratings cut "we may lose access to longer-term loans. We may be excluded from portfolio investments, and we may also be dropped from the CalPERS' list," Buenaventura said.

CalPERS or the California Public Employees' Retirement System is America's largest pension fund. Last year it decided to retain the Philippines in its list of "permissible emerging markets," or investment sites, after a stringent review.

For her part, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin told the INQUIRER that the government would reassess its plan to borrow this year about $4 billion, including $1 billion for National Power Corp.

Little effect

The government is planning to hold an international roadshow to gauge investor appetite for Philippine bonds.

The credit rating downgrade had little impact on the peso and local stocks.

The peso closed lower at 55.645 to the US dollar on Tuesday, from 55.525 on Monday, in reaction to the credit rating cut. In 2004 the peso fell to a record low of 56.45 against the dollar.

Share prices on the Philippine Stock Exchange also shed 0.19 percent. Dealers in the stock market said the relatively muted reaction by investors on the bourse suggested that most had been expecting the downgrade and hoped it could be reversed.

While lawmakers supported the Arroyo administration's proposed tax measures, some of their colleagues vowed to block the passage of a bill seeking to increase the value-added tax on basic goods.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said the credit rating downgrade was "a setback," but he added that this should only spur Congress "to try harder to pass these unpalatable reforms, but which are necessary for a healthier economy."

Antique Rep. Exequiel Javier said the one notch downgrade would mean P20 billion to P30 billion more in interest payments for the country. "Lawmakers should act in a more timely manner on needed reform and tax measures, while government agencies should better enforce our revenue collection and saving measures," he said.

Senate reaction

But Sen. Ralph Recto said the cost of the credit downgrade was only about P2 billion, adding that ordinary consumers need not suffer higher prices through the imposition of a 2-percent increase in the value-added tax on basic goods.

"Taxation is not an auction. It is never higher is better," said Recto, chair of the Senate ways and means committee.

Sen. Manuel Villar, chair of the Senate finance committee, said Congress "should continue working on tax measures, but the solution is not necessarily a hike in the value-added tax."

Power sector blamed

For his part, Sen. Joker Arroyo blamed the power sector for the government's tax woes.

"They neglect taxing the power sector and then they badger us to tax the common people. Value-added tax and sin taxes hit the common people. But the ones that are in the power sector are not taxed commensurately," said Arroyo.

The maverick senator cited Recto's disclosure the other day that the independent power producers had been paying less than 3 percent of their gross sales in taxes every year compared to state employees who had been levied a 12-percent tax on their income.

The militant group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan also vowed to oppose the bill seeking to increase the value-added tax on basic goods. *With reports by Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Doris C. Dumlao, Christine O. Avendaño, Michael Lim Ubac, Cynthia D. Balana and Norman Bordadora*

EZ2
17 7

SUERTRES
3 3 2

SIX DIGIT
9 0 0 2 4 5
(In exact order)

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil ■ Assistant Editor Cenon B. Bibe

6/42 Luzon/Vis-Min
6 11 12 17 28 36

SWEEPSTAKES
2 5 6 0 4 6 P

Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Nida lawyer cautious of third case witness

By Luige A. del Puerto

HOLD your horses.

The legal counsel of slain actress Nida Blanca's family is withholding judgment on the truthfulness of the testimony of a new government witness in the case of the murdered actress until she has interviewed the witness herself.

"I will have to interview him myself and assess his credibility," lawyer Harriet Demetriou said on the phone. Demetriou is the counsel of Blanca's only child, Kaye Torres.

Demetriou said she would be meeting new witness Ranny Francisco, 35, a former tabloid employee, today at the National Bureau of Investigation office in Manila.

"I'll talk to him, and depending on the results of the talk, I'll give my assessment," she said.

Demetriou said today would be an initial meeting. "I might need further meetings with him to assess whether he is telling the truth or not," she said.

In a statement faxed to the INQUIRER, Demetriou said: "I cannot make any judgment at this time on the truthfulness of Ranny C. Francisco's story until I shall have thoroughly interviewed him."

Demetriou said this was what she did in the case of Andrada Dalandas and her companion Mariz.

Both women had volunteered to testify in the Nida Blanca murder case. Dalandas's testimony places Philip Medel, Rod Strunk, Mike Martinez and a "fourth man" at the murder scene in the wee hours of Nov. 7, 2001.

"I will make my own evaluation of Francisco's credibility independently of the NBI's," Demetriou said.

The Justice Department had said it would start a preliminary investigation against a woman who was allegedly one of the brains behind the actress' murder.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the DOJ would investigate the woman after Francisco positively identified her as one of the three persons who "escorted" Blanca out of the Atlanta Centre building hours before she was murdered.

Francisco's testimony is expected to fill in details of the time before Blanca's body was found in the early morning of Nov. 7, 2001 with several stab wounds.

While declining to name the woman, Gonzalez said she had been previously invited by the bureau for questioning.

Francisco described the woman as someone who "looked old" and was about 60 to 65 years old.

Gonzalez declined to say if the suspect was anyone close to the actress.

Francisco said missing businessman Mike Martinez was among two men who were with the female suspect.

Gonzalez said the NBI had received reports that Martinez was still alive.

Francisco said he was on his way to the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board office at the Atlanta Centre in the afternoon of Nov. 6, 2001 when he saw Blanca accompanied by the suspects.

He said he went to the MTRCB office to have some movie picture advertisements approved by the film ratings body.

Mandaluyong studes get free Web service

STRESSING that quality education was on top of his priority projects, Mandaluyong Mayor Neptali Gonzales II inaugurated the other day the Internet Research Center at the Congressional District Library in the City Hall complex for thousands of the city's students who had no regular access to computers.

The newly-opened Internet Station located at the Filipiniana section of the public library offers a free Internet service. The section is equipped with six computers with DSL Internet connection.

Gonzales added that he had allotted a portion of his pork barrel for the construction of public schools in the city.

Four elementary and high school institutions have already been built under his term as congressman. *Belle V. Bondoc*

Dispute over gas station ends in brawl

By Leila B. Salaverria

POLICEWOMEN carry a defiant Amanda Cruz (in black blouse) out of a gasoline station in Sta. Mesa, Manila yesterday.
REM ZAMORA

A LEGAL dispute turned ugly yesterday morning when two gasoline station managers were brought to police headquarters after they allegedly refused to obey a court order telling them to vacate the site.

Brothers Ferdinand and Hubert Cruz, of the Pinoy Gasoline Station at the corner of Altura Street and Ramon Magsaysay Boulevard in Sampaloc, said they were contesting the order. The brothers said they had a copy of a court injunction dated 2000 stating that a status quo should be maintained until a property dispute with gasoline firm Petron regarding the land occupied by the Altura station is settled.

The gasoline station is owned by Dr. Amanda Cruz, president of the Petroleum Dealers Association.

However, in a statement sent to the INQUIRER, Petron Corp. said that the Writ of Execution issued by Judge Manuel M. Barrios of the Manila Regional Trial Court, ordering spouses Francisco and Amanda Cruz to vacate the station, was valid and legal.

"The implementation of the Writ of Execution is the result of efforts patiently undertaken by our company through the legal process and within the judicial system," said Petron legal counsel Joel C. Cruz.

Investigator SPO4 Cecilio Sacorum said the Cruz brothers were brought to the Western Police District on orders of Sheriff Eugenio Soriaso of Branch 55 of the Manila Regional Trial Court, who was supposed to file a complaint against the two for reportedly refusing to comply with the order. The brothers, however, were released later when Soriaso failed to appear at the WPD. Soriaso tried to enforce the court order earlier (Jan. 11), but was met with resistance from Ms Cruz.

Ferdinand told police that at 7 a.m. yesterday, he arrived at the station and saw that it was ringed by a steel barricade. Petron employees, security guards and policemen were with Soriaso, he added.

A copy of the 2000 court injunction was also shown to the police, Ferdinand said. Sorioso, however, directed police to bring the brothers to the WPD for refusing to honor the writ.

Petron said the writ is based on a ruling ordering the Cruzes to vacate the premises on April 2001. Francisco and Amanda Cruz appealed the ruling in the Court of Appeals, but the Petition for Review was dismissed twice last year, the gasoline firm added.

Petron entered into lease and retail dealer contracts with the Cruzes as dealers in 1977. When the lease expired in 1987, the couple refused to give up the dealership, Petron said, adding that it had no recourse but to file ejection cases against the two.

New Manila sound: cops blowing whistles

By Tarra V. Quismundo

MANILA'S streets would once again be filled with the sound of whistles blowing in the wind.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza has called for the return of this trusty policeman's tool, as he directed the Western Police District to revive the use of the whistle in enforcing laws and ordinances in the city.

"Back then, policemen would blow whistles as a preventive measure against crime," Atienza told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"It was part of the sound of the city. Do you hear policemen blowing their whistles now?" the mayor added.

"There are policemen around, but when they see violators, they do nothing," Atienza said.

The whistles should be worn with their general office uniform (GOA), and used every so often, he stressed.

The mayor said the whistle was an effective tool since its loud sound readily alerted and warned not just the violators, but also the public.

Ortigas road a 'free' parking area

By Luige A. del Puerto

AFTER forging a truce between two contending wealthy families on Monday, Pasig Mayor Vicente "Enteng" Eusebio yesterday successfully mediated in the dispute over a busy parking stretch inside the Ortigas Center.

After a one-hour meeting at the Shangri-La Hotel on Edsa, the Umale and Ynares clans have agreed to declare the parking stretch on Pearl Drive, which could easily accommodate 100 cars, a "free parking area."

The parking stretch is crucial to a residential condominium, a commercial complex and a tertiary school.

The gentlemen's agreement called for the immediate cessation of hostilities between the two sides. Also, neither Creekside Park Inc. nor the Umale group would manage the parking area.

It was not immediately clear, however, when the agreement would take effect.

On Monday, men from both sides clashed when the Superb Security Agency, reportedly run a by son of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, took over the parking area. The melee only stopped when Eusebio arrived in the area and asked both sides to retreat.

Present during yesterday's meeting were Eusebio, Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares, his son Casimiro Ynares III, businessman Leonardo Umale, and city police chief Sr. Supt. Raul Medina.

Umale was with his two sons and his lawyer, Hans Santos.

No one would manage the parking area, according to Umale and the younger Ynares, a former Laguna Lake Development Authority chair.

Ynares III had been helping Creekside Park implement a contract it had obtained from the Ortigas Company to manage the parking area. The Ynares family owns Manila Luxury, a residential condominium located at the end of Pearl Drive.

As a result of the agreement, Eusebio will ask the Ortigas Company to stop collecting rent from Creekside Park, according to Ynares.

The current parking fee along the contested stretch of Jade Drive is at least P30.

St. Luke's hosts annual confab

THE ST. LUKE'S College of Medicine (SLCM) William H. Quasha Memorial will host the Association of Philippine Medical Colleges 38th Annual Convention at the Edsa Shangri-La, Mandaluyong City on Jan. 20-22.

This year's theme is the interface of medical education with health care delivery.

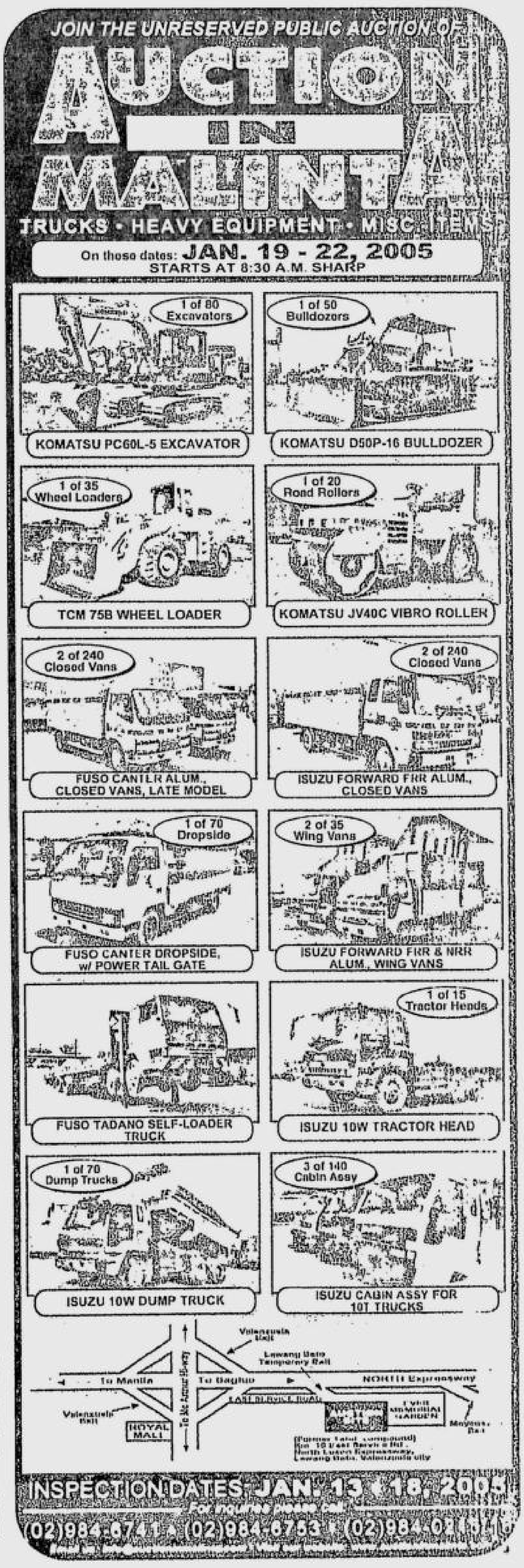
The SLCM was founded 10 years ago by the late lawyer William H. Quasha when he was also the president and chair of the St. Luke's Medical Center.

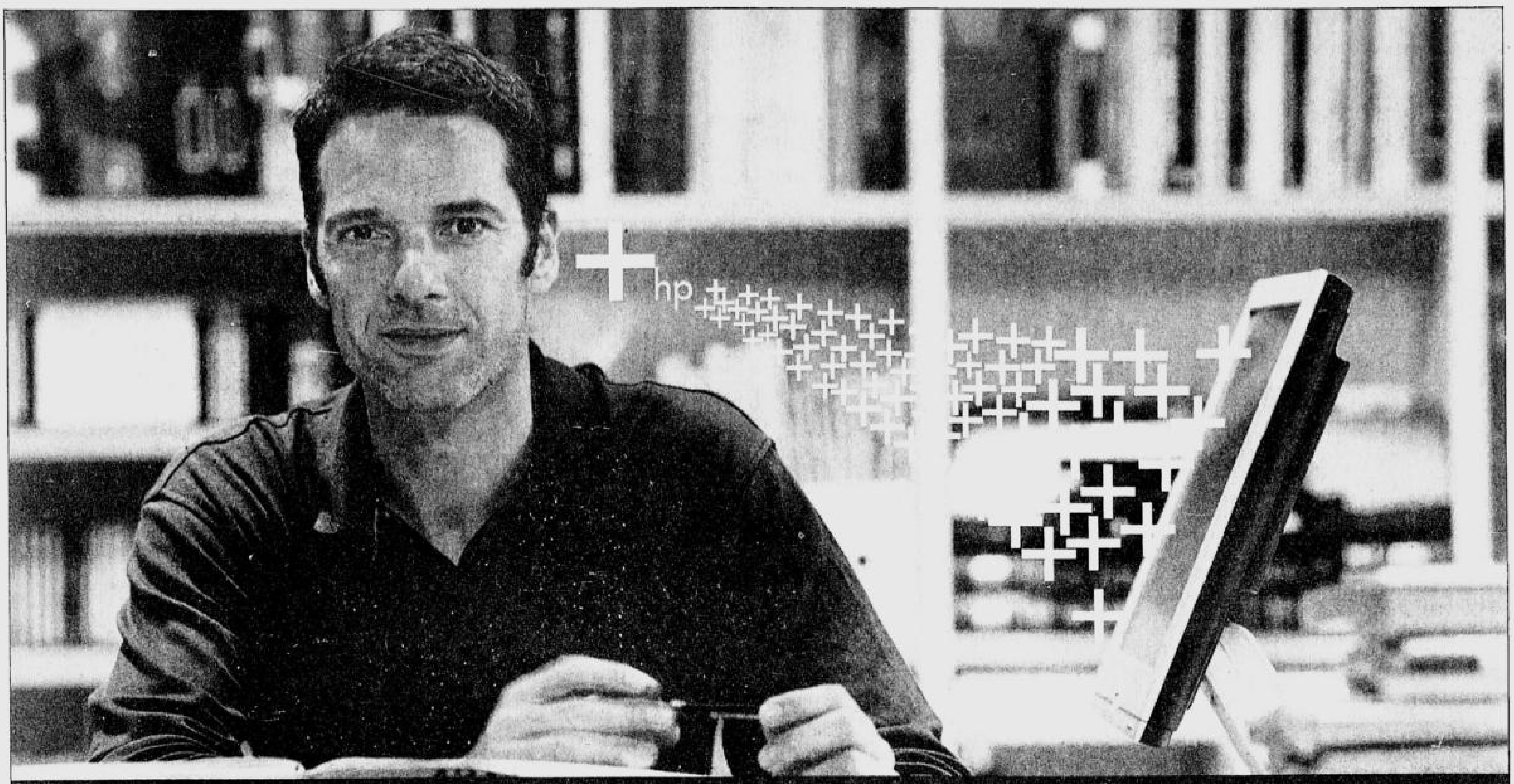
A pre-convention workshop will be conducted today at the St. Luke's College of Medicine-William H. Quasha Memorial Skills Laboratory, featuring the latest information on the state-of-the-art medical simulations for training and assessment of medical students and physicians.

The guest lecturer/facilitator for this workshop is Anthony Errichetti, PhD, director of clinical learning and assessment center, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Philadelphia, USA.

The chair of the Commission on Higher Education, Fr. Rolando V. de la Rosa, OP, PhD, will give the keynote address.

MICROVAN
(02) 984-0278/79
MEGA SALE!
on January 19, 2005 • STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP


JOIN THE UNRESERVED PUBLIC AUCTION OF
AUCTION IN MALINTA
TRUCKS • HEAVY EQUIPMENT • MISC. ITEMS
On these dates: JAN. 19 - 22, 2005
STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP
1 of 80 Excavators — KOMATSU PC60L-5 EXCAVATOR
1 of 50 Bulldozers — KOMATSU D50P-16 BULLDOZER
1 of 35 Wheel Loaders — TCM 75B WHEEL LOADER
1 of 20 Road Rollers — KOMATSU JV40C VIBRO ROLLER
2 of 240 Closed Vans — FUSO CANTER ALUM., CLOSED VANS, LATE MODEL
2 of 240 Closed Vans — ISUZU FORWARD FRR ALUM., CLOSED VANS
1 of 70 Dropside — FUSO CANTER DROPSIDE, w/ POWER TAIL GATE
2 of 35 Wing Vans — ISUZU FORWARD FRR & NRR ALUM., WING VANS
FUSO TADANO SELF-LOADER TRUCK
1 of 15 Tractor Heads — ISUZU 10W TRACTOR HEAD
1 of 70 Dump Trucks — ISUZU 10W DUMP TRUCK
3 of 140 Cabin Assy — ISUZU CABIN ASSY FOR 10T TRUCKS
INSPECTION DATES: JAN. 13 - 18, 2005
(02)984-6741 • (02)984-6753 • (02)984-[illegible]



Make sound investments for your business today!

When you invest in HP Compaq Business Desktops and HP Compaq Business Notebooks you're buying into one of the world's most trusted names in technology solutions. Powered by Intel® processors these business machines are the picture of state-of-the-art technology and unmatched efficiency making sure your business is productive all the time. With HP, we make sure that you get the best after sales support possible with our worldwide warranties and "ready-to-answer all your questions" call center.

Get more technology, expertise and support from HP's Smart Office solutions.

HP recommends Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional.

HP COMPAQ BUSINESS DESKTOP d220 MICROTOWER

New Product!

PHP35,210 Core technology at the best price

- Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor 2.50GHz
- Mandrake 9.1 Linux
- Intel® 845GV Chipset
- 40GB Hard Disk Drive (5400rpm)
- 256MB DDR (PC 2700) memory
- Intel® Extreme Graphics
- Integrated Broadcom 10/100 Ethernet
- Integrated Intel® Audio with Internal Speaker
- HP S5500 15" CRT monitor
- 1-year parts, 1-year labor, and 1-year on-site service (next business day). Upgradeable to 3-year parts with HP Care Pack for Php1,590

FREE HP Deskjet 3744 Colour Inkjet Printer for every 5 units purchased (one time purchase only).

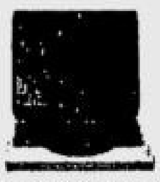
HP COMPAQ BUSINESS DESKTOP dx2000 MICROTOWER

New Product!

PHP51,950 Core technology at the best price

- Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor with HT Technology* 2.80GHz
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional
- Intel® 865GV Chipset
- 80GB Hard Disk Drive (7200rpm)
- 52X CD-ROM drive
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 256MB DDR (PC 3200) memory
- Intel® Extreme Graphics
- Integrated Broadcom NeXtreme Gigabit Ethernet
- Integrated Intel® Audio with Internal Speaker
- 1-year parts, 1-year labor, and 1-year on-site service (next business day). Upgradeable to 3-year parts with HP Care Pack for Php1,590

FREE HP Deskjet 3744 Colour Inkjet Printer for every 5 units purchased (one time purchase only).



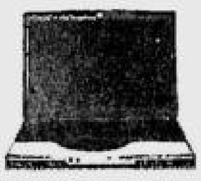
HP COMPAQ BUSINESS NOTEBOOK nx9040

PHP89,950 Mainstream at Exceptional Value

- Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology
  - Intel® Pentium® M Processor 725^*
  - Intel® 855GM Chipset
  - Intel® wireless LAN 802.11b
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional
- 15-inch XGA TFT display
- 40GB HDD
- 1.44MB Floppy drive
- DVD CD Writer Combo drive (Hot Swappable)
- 256MB memory
- 10/100 LAN (Broadband ready)
- High Speed 56K modem
- One-year Limited Worldwide warranty

^(2MB Cache, 1.60GHz, 400MHz FSB)

FREE Targus Carrying Case
FREE HP Deskjet 3744 Colour Inkjet Printer



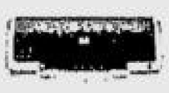
HP COMPAQ BUSINESS NOTEBOOK nx7010

PHP119,950 Maximum productivity with no compromise mobility

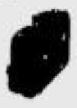
- Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology
  - Intel® Pentium® M Processor 735^*
  - Intel® 855GM Chipset
  - Intel® wireless LAN 802.11b / g
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional
- 15.4-inch XGA TFT display
- 60GB HDD
- Secure Digital (SD) slot
- DVD CD Writer Combo Drive
- 512MB memory
- 10/100 LAN (Broadband ready)
- High Speed 56K modem
- One-year Limited Worldwide Warranty

^(2MB Cache, 1.70GHz, 400MHz FSB)

FREE Targus Carrying Case



FREE HP Deskjet 3744 Colour Inkjet Printer for every unit purchased of HP Compaq Business Notebook nx9040 and for every 5 units purchased (one time purchase only) of the HP Compaq Business Desktop d220 Microtower or HP Compaq Business Desktop dx2000 Microtower.



FREE Targus Carrying Case for every unit purchased of HP Compaq Business Notebook nx9040 or HP Compaq Business Notebook nx7010.

Promo runs until January 31, 2005
Approved by DTI-NCR
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3333 Series of 2004

HP COMPAQ BUSINESS DESKTOP d220 MICROTOWER

New Product!

PHP49,950 Core technology at the best price

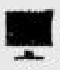
- Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor 2.80GHz
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional
- Intel® 845GV Chipset
- 40GB Hard Disk Drive (5400rpm)
- 48X CD-ROM Drive
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 256MB DDR (PC 2700) memory
- Intel® Extreme Graphics
- Integrated Broadcom 10/100 Ethernet
- Integrated Intel® Audio with Internal Speaker
- HP S5500 15" CRT monitor
- 3-year parts, 1-year labor, and 1-year on-site service (next business day).

HP iPAQ POCKET PC hx4700

Intel® PXA270 Processor 624MHz, Microsoft® Windows Mobile™ 2003 Second Edition software for Pocket PC (Premium Edition), 4-inch Transflective type VGA TFT color; Portrait and Landscape, Up to 135 MB user available memory (includes 80MB iPAQ File Store), 192 MB total memory, (128 MB Strata Flash ROM and 64 MB SDRAM), Integrated Bluetooth™, Integrated wireless LAN 802.11b, Compact Flash 1 Type II Slot, SD/SDIO/MMC slot, Removable/Rechargeable 1800mAh Lithium-Ion user swappable battery, One-year Worldwide Limited warranty

PHP39,950

Enhance viewing on our featured desktops with HP's range of LCD Monitors.



HP Flat Panel Monitor L1502
(P/N : P9617D)
- (15") 38.1cm Analog TFT
- Maximum resolution of 1024 x 768
- 3-year on-site warranty
- PHP17,699

HP Flat Panel Monitor L1530
(P/N : P9624A)
- (15") 38.1cm Digital TFT
- Maximum resolution of 1024 x 768
- 3-year on-site warranty
- PHP20,199

With certified service and genuine parts, HP Care Pack adds more value to your warranty. Insist on one today.

invent

CALL	**(632) 867-3557**
	Toll-free 1-800-1441-6688
EMAIL	**ph.contact@hp.com**
VISIT	**your local hp reseller**

centrino MOBILE TECHNOLOGY

DISTRIBUTORS Lamco International 634-7000 • MSI Digiland (Phils.) Inc 439-7777 • PREMIER BUSINESS PARTNERS CTLink Systems 893-9515 • Integrated Computer Systems 727-3801 • Nexus Technologies 750-0630 • Phil Data Business Systems 811-2878 • Unison Computer Systems 374-6888 • BUSINESS PARTNERS Advance Solutions 526-3935 • Hytech 722-1122 • MG Business 372-7020 • Microbase 813-7603 • Micromage 752-4525 • Micropacific Tech 840 4503/05 • Microphase 812-8182 • Ng Mai Development Corporation 032 346-2026 • Shelsoft 740-0431 • Yuhu 241-4601 • Zerephin 365-0536

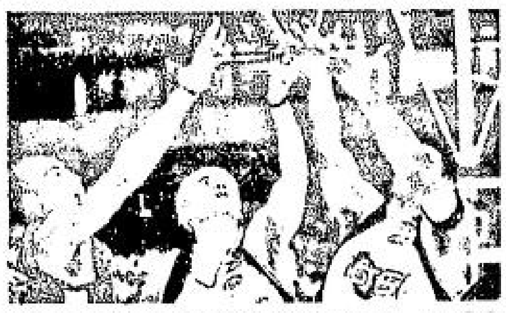
©2004 Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P. Intel, Intel logo, Intel Inside, Intel Inside logo, Pentium, Intel Centrino and Intel Centrino logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the United States and other countries. * Intel's numbering is not a measurement of higher performance. +The hyperthreading feature is a new technology designed to improve performance of multi threaded software products, please contact your software provider to determine software compatibility. Not all customers or software applications will benefit from the use of hyperthreading. Go to http://www.intel.com/info/hyperthreading/ for more information. Microsoft and Windows are U.S. registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. The HP Contact Center is available Mondays thru Fridays 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Wedding March
at NBC Tent
Jan. 22 & 23 10AM - 8PM
NBC TENT, BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY
For free admission,
pre-register at themesandmotifs.com

SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Text us your feedback: Inquirer sprt name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

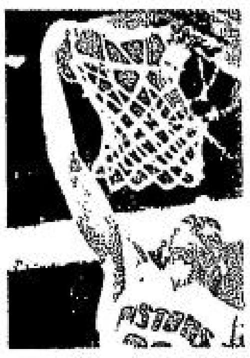
THINNING HAIR?
Call Svenson at 892-HAIR (4247)



Tortillos rip Eagles /A22

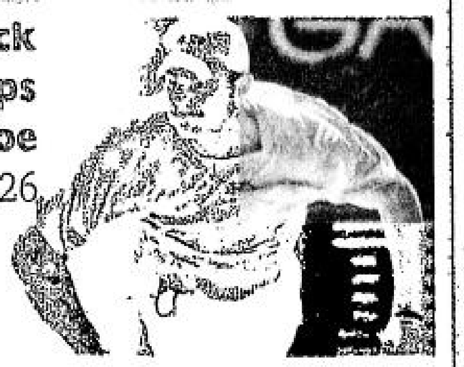
WHAT'S INSIDE

La Salle tossers down Lyceum; Letran wins /A23



Roddick sweeps past foe /A26

Pistons eclipse Suns /A24



₱150M for RP's SEAG athletes

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MONETARY pledges amounting to about P150 million poured in yesterday as the country's top corporations and businessmen showed their support to the 600-plus Filipino athletes seeing action in the Southeast Asian Games this November.

First Gentleman Mike Arroyo presided over the pledging session held at Malacañang's Heroes Hall, where he promised full support for every Filipino athlete competing in the SEA Games.

"My job is finished," said Arroyo, who cited food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. for promising the bulk of P100 million. "They (athletes) would all be funded. Now I can't see any reason for them to complain and not perform their best in the SEA Games."

The pledges far exceeded their P120-million projection, according to Arroyo, who raised P22 million two years ago for the country's stint in the Vietnam SEA Games.

Aside from the cash pledge, San Miguel "adopted" national sports associations in archery, baseball, boxing, judo, karatedo,

P150M/A22

FIRST Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo (left) with Philsoc chair Roberto Pagdanganan and Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco during yesterday's pledging session at the Heroes Hall of Malacañang Palace. EDWIN BACASMAS

CARRYBOY
"All The Way!"

PACKAGE 1
ROLLBAR SERIES
CB-706
Ellipse Tube Aluminum Roll Bar with 3rd brakelight
CB-920
Bedliner with optional chromed hook & tie
CB-721
Front Bumper Guard Cover (Overrider) ALL-NEW
CB-982
Large Hood Deflector
OR
CB-701
Door Visor w/ Black Metal Clip

PACKAGE 2
ROLLER-UP SERIES
CB-706
Ellipse Tube Aluminum Roll Bar with 3rd brakelight
CB-920
Bedliner with optional chromed hook & tie
CB-RUP
Roller-Up
The ALL-New Toyota HILUX

PACKAGE 3
CANOPY SERIES
Buy any of the 3 CANOPY models & Aluminum Roof Basket (CB-535):
CB Series 5
Sporty (Most Popular)
CB Series 8
ALL-NEW (Multi-Purpose)
NEW LIFT-1
*FREE!
AC 220V DC 12V Conversion
CB-729 COOLER/ WARMER worth P6,800

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-015, series of 2005 Promo is from Jan. 12 to Feb. 28, 2005
94 Banawe cor. Macopa Sts., Q.C. Near Retiro St. & National Orthopedic Hospital, going Del Monte Ave., Q.C. Dial 7400-525 • 7400-530 • 7323-109
VISIT YOUR NEAREST DEALER

Solid Shell makes last bus to s'finals

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:40 p.m.—San Miguel vs Barangay Ginebra
7:30 p.m.—Shell vs Talk 'N Text

By Musong R. Castillo

A SHELL team that took the floor believing in itself held off Purefoods last night, and the Turbochargers became the last team to make the semifinals of the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup with a 106-95 victory at the Cuneta Astrodome.

"The players knew that there's no more tomorrow," coach Leo Austria said. "They did not want this chance to slip away and they knew that they could do it."

Dela Cruz shines

Tony dela Cruz led a four-pronged offense, scattering 27 points as Shell wrapped up its quarterfinal series with the Tender Juicy Hotdogs, 2-1, to earn a pairing with Talk 'N Text in the semifinals that start today.

Eliminations topnotcher Barangay Ginebra and San Miguel clash in the other final four match-up, a similar race-to-five affair beginning at 4:40 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum.

Shell made the semifinals for the first time in eight conferences, at the expense of another struggling side in Purefoods, a team which finished no higher than sixth place in the last six tournaments.

'We'll not stop here'

"A lot of people will be happy, especially Shell management," added Austria, his hands shaking. "The team worked hard for this and we will not stop here."

Shell answered the second half with all cylinders humming, padding a 44-36 lead to 21 at one point with Dela Cruz finding his range and the rest of the team contributing to the scoring.

Billy Mamaril finished with a career-high 20 markers, Rich Alvarez added 16 and Ronald Tubid played for the first time in four games to make an impact with 12 points.

Healthy Tubid

Tubid showed up with a cleanly shaven pate, a healthier hamstring and crucial baskets in the third period that quelled the first of several rallies the Hotdogs mounted behind Jun Limpot and Kerby Raymundo.

Limpot scored a season-high 28 points to pace the

SOLID/ A22

PUREFOODS big man Kerby Raymundo (right) tries to thread the Shell defense in yesterday's game at the Cuneta Astrodome. RUDY ESPERAS

SEMI-FINALS NA NGAYON!
GINEBRA VS. SAN MIGUEL
SINO ANG HARI NG MGA ASTIG?
PBA
ABC Iba tayo
WED - FRI - SUN
'WAG NANG BIBITAW!

PETRON
CHANGE OIL TO CASH SA
Ultron REV-X
Oil for a Million
BUMILI NA NG ULTRON O REV-X. HANAPIN ANG STICKER. SCRATCH AT I-TEXT ANG CODE AT MANALO
NG LUBE PACKS AT GADGETS WEEKLY, P100,000 MONTHLY AT 1 MILLION PESOS SA GRAND DRAW!
SAMSUNG
PETRON 6B23888A/ Al Oy/ 1 Dalia St. Cubao, Q.C.
*Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2467 Series of 2004

Tortillos rip Eagles, gain PBL s'finals

Welcoat arranges final four duel vs Magnolia

GAMES SATURDAY (*Venue to be announced*)
2 p.m.—Granny Goose vs Montaña
4 p.m.—Welcoat vs Magnolia-FEU

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE GRANNY Goose Tortillos continued to make a strong impression in their maiden campaign, stepping up defensively to wrap up a 76-52 rout of AMP-Ateneo and clinch a semifinal slot in the PBL Open Championship yesterday at the Pasig Sports Center.

The Tortillos got off to a solid start in the second half and capped their cruise by watching Alfie Grijaldo score all his 14 points in the final period.

"*Bumalik na ang sigla ng* team (The team's energy returned)," said coach Jun Tan, whose Tortillos will battle the Montaña Jewels in the semifinals. "We had good ball rotation and it's defense that made us win. I hope we can sustain it in the semifinals."

Welcoat Paints secured the remaining semifinal seat in lopsided fashion, blasting ICTSI-La Salle, 90-60.

Rookie Anthony Washington made his presence felt in a big way as he exploded with 31 points and 15 rebounds.

The Paintmasters also outrebounded the Archers, 63-32.

"The players came out today especially Washington," said coach Caloy Garcia after setting a semifinal duel against defending champion Magnolia-FEU. "We showed that we wanted to win and we hope to carry it against Magnolia."

The game turned to the Tortillos' favor as early as the second quarter when they posted their first double-digit lead, 31-21.

And after a 35-27 halftime advantage, the Cebu-based crew zoomed to a 12-2 run capped by six straight points from JR Quiñahan for an 18-point buffer, 47-29, in the third quarter.

The Tortillos widened the gap by as many as 22 points, 54-32, after back-to-back triples from Jett Latonio and Marvin Cruz.

Granny Goose then cruised in the fourth quarter, with Grijaldo scoring 14 of his team's final 20 points.

Washington scored 20 points in the first half, triggering Welcoat surge to a 48-36 spread.

ICTSI-La Salle got to within seven points, 50-43, in the third period, but another 12-0 spurt by Welcoat put the lead back up by 19, 62-43.

The scores:

First game

GRANNY GOOSE 76—Grijaldo 14, Quiñahan 12, Lanete 10, Ibañes 10, Cruz 8, Latonio 8, Almeda 6, Concha 4, Santos 2, Capati 2, Larong 0, Santos 0.

AMP-ATENEO 52—Oreta 20, Mesina 11, Gatumbato 6, Castro 5, Membrere 4, Mendoza 2, Bugia 2, Tenorio 2, Espinas 0, Alfad 0, Kramer 0.

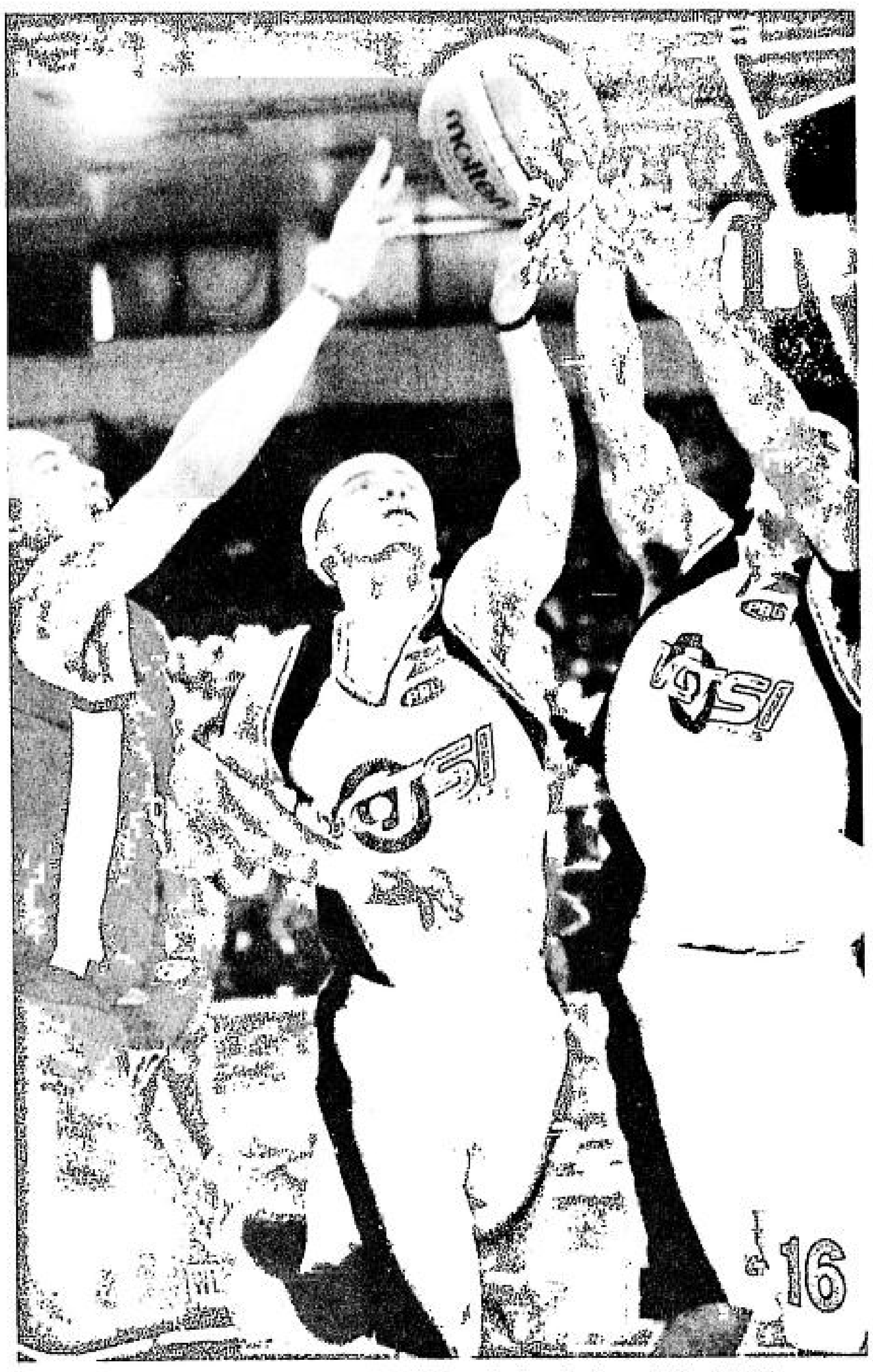
Quarters: 19-15, 35-27, 56-37, 76-52.

Second game

WELCOAT 90—Washington 31, Tolomia 15, Najorda 8, Sta. Maria 8, Dy 8, Ortiguerra 7, Mamaclay 5, Tan 3, Coching 3, Dulay 2, Reyes 0, Gamboa 0, Guevarra 0, Yee 0.

ICTSI-LA SALLE 60—Cardona 24, Cabatu 9, Yeo 8, Aquino 5, Araña 3, Gaco 3, Gavino 3, Casio 3, Tang 2, Villanueva 0, Gatchalian 0.

Quarters: 27-20, 48-36, 66-50, 90-60.



MAC Cardona and Gerwin Gaco of ICTSI battle for the loose ball with Allan Gamboa (left) of Welcoat.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

₱150M for RP's SEAG athletes

From page A21

wushu and basketball. It also vowed to finance the training of Filipino boxers up to the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Tonyboy Cojuangco and Bank of Commerce promise to shell out P10 million, aside from taking in aquatics and dancesports under their wings. Aquatics consist of spectator sports like swimming, diving and water polo.

Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) will be the "godfather" of medal-rich athletics and cycling. It pledged P6 million for both sports.

Arroyo's FG Foundation, which helped organize the fund-raising event, singled out chess as the First Gentleman's personal choice.

Alfredo Romualdez and Vivian Yuchengco of RCBC will support badminton, the country's hottest sport.

Putch Puyat of Puyat Sports chose billiards, Megaworld went for bowling, Edgar Manda picked dragonboat and Manny Pangilinan of PLDT/Smart pledged to back fencing, squash and tennis.

Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco picked the sport closest to his heart, equestrian. Pocholo Borromeo chose men's football, Jack Rodriguez selected women's football, ICTSI's Ricky Razon chose golf and Andy Soriano tapped sailing.

Nestlé went for gymnastics, Aboitiz picked rowing/canoing/kayaking, Rey David and the Development Bank of the Philippines chose sepak takraw, Lucio Tan backed shooting, Hermie Esguerra batted for softball, Petron and Samsung selected taekwondo, Diners chose triathlon and Globe Telecoms supported weightlifting and athletics.

Events still looking for godfathers are table tennis, pencak silat, volleyball, wrestling, muay thai, lawn balls and petanque.

Athletics and chess president Go Teng Kok expressed delight over the support his NSAs got, especially that of Arroyo who is an avid chess player.

Also lending funding support are Aboitiz, WG&A, ICTSI, Fortune Tobacco, Smart, Globe, Philippine National Bank, Federal Management Inc., GMA, Samsung, PNOC, PDIC, PCSO, Philam Life, PLDT, Ayala Land, Petron and horseracing patron Esguerra.

Arroyo said all the money to be donated will "go directly to the national sports associations." Not even a single centavo, he said, would pass through the FG Foundation.

The Philippines, despite placing only fourth overall in the 2003 Vietnam SEAG, is aiming for the overall championship in the biennial Games to be held in the country for the third time.

Solid Shell makes last bus to semifinals

From page A21

Hotdogs. But his nine turnovers were also a conference mark, and most of them hurt Purefoods.

Back-to-back triples

Protecting that eight-point lead, the Turbochargers opened up the third quarter by hitting eight of their first nine shots, zooming to a 61-40 lead with 7:40 left in the third after back-to-back Dela Cruz triples.

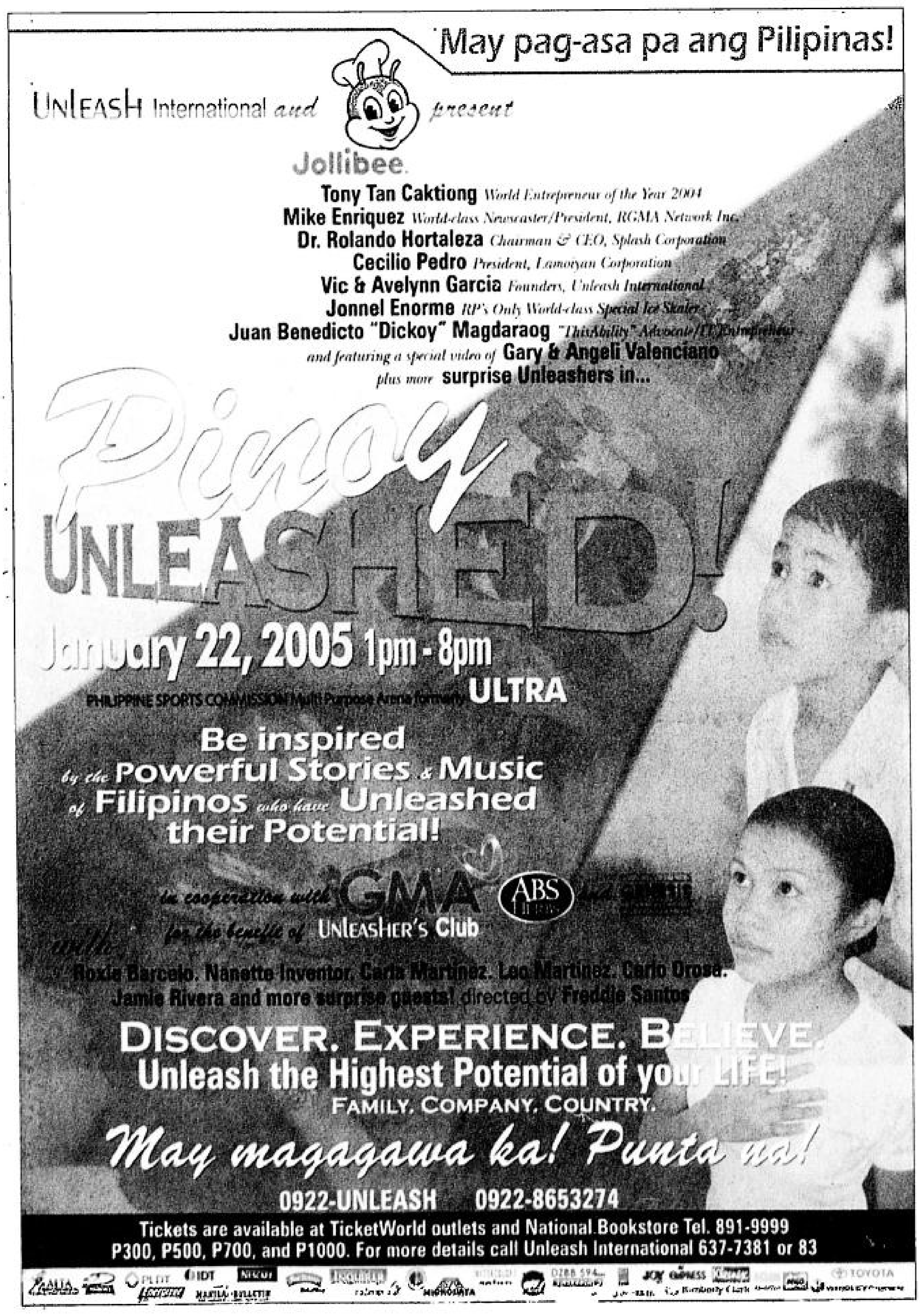
Purefoods did not fold up and die after that, trimming the deficit to eight at 84-92, with 2:18 left, after two James Yap triples. But that proved to be all the TJ Hotdogs could do as Shell was steady from the stripe.

The scores:

SHELL 106—Dela Cruz 27, Mamaril 20, Alvarez 16, Tubid 12, Yap 9, Ferreria 8, Sotto 6, Sta. Maria 5, Bajar 3, Cruz 0, Calaguio 0, Jackson 0.

PUREFOODS 95—Limpot 28, Yap 24, Raymundo 15, Laure 9, Castillo 7, Artadi 6, Simon 4, Evangelista 2, Espinosa 0, Yee 0.

Quarters: 27-18, 44-36, 77-61, 106-95.



May pag-asa pa ang Pilipinas!
UNLEASH International and Jollibee present
Tony Tan Caktiong World Entrepreneur of the Year 2004
Mike Enriquez World-class Newscaster/President, RGMA Network Inc.
Dr. Rolando Hortaleza Chairman & CEO, Splash Corporation
Cecilio Pedro President, Lamoiyan Corporation
Vic & Avelynn Garcia Founders, Unleash International
Jonnel Enorme RP's Only World-class Special Ice Skater
Juan Benedicto "Dickoy" Magdaraog "ThisAbility" Advocate/IT Entrepreneur
and featuring a special video of Gary & Angeli Valenciano
plus more surprise Unleashers in...
Pinoy UNLEASHED!
January 22, 2005 1pm - 8pm
PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION Multi Purpose Arena formerly ULTRA
Be inspired by the Powerful Stories & Music of Filipinos who have Unleashed their Potential!
in cooperation with GMA ABS
for the benefit of UNLEASHER'S Club
with Roxie Barcelo, Nanette Inventor, Carla Martinez, Leo Martinez, Carlo Orosa, Jamie Rivera and more surprise guests! directed by Freddie Santos
DISCOVER. EXPERIENCE. BELIEVE.
Unleash the Highest Potential of your LIFE!
FAMILY. COMPANY. COUNTRY.
May magagawa ka! Punta na!
0922-UNLEASH 0922-8653274
Tickets are available at TicketWorld outlets and National Bookstore Tel. 891-9999
P300, P500, P700, and P1000. For more details call Unleash International 637-7381 or 83

SPORTSWATCH

NAM Mall Tour

GNC, the leading food and health supplements retailer, will launch the NAM Mall Tour, an interactive sporting event featuring big-name cagers and exciting gimmicks on Jan. 22 at SM North Edsa in Quezon City. PBA hotshots Nic Belasco and Ali Peek and the PBL's leading player, Mac Cardona, head the list of basketball stars in the GNC-organized affair that offers sports nutrition and fitness consultation, memorabilia exhibits, autograph signing and photo sessions for the public. Attractive prizes and giveaways from Burlington and Accel await participants. According to JV Borromeo, GNC vice president for operations, GNC has embarked on the NAM Tour to show mall-goers the importance of healthy living and sports participation. "With this event co-sponsored by Osim, Oxyboost and Gadget Magazine, people will have the chance to be up close with their cage idols while getting tips on proper nutrition and health care," said Borromeo. GNC has 40 branches across the country.

Lim posts Grand Slam win

THE PHILIPPINE Game fishing Foundation (PGFF) recently celebrated Edmund Lim's Grand Slam victory at Playdium Bowling and Billiards Center. He hooked the 2004 Angler of the Year crown by topping both the Light Tackle and Heavy Tackle divisions after a grueling 9-event circuit. Lim beat Tong Ng Jr. and Bong nery Jr. in the Light Tackle series and Bobby Garcia and Conrad Cuesta in the Heavy Tackle events. Lim bested 52 top PGFF anglers to seize the 2004 Angler of the Year (AOY) title. This is his second AOY victory and he is only the second angler in 20 years of AOY tournaments since 1985 to post a back-to-back victory that matched four-time AOY and Hall of Famer Rico Gueco's Grand Slam feat. Lim lined himself up for the PGFF Hall of Fame, needing to earn his third overall AOY crown. Lim launched his third AOY bid for the 12-event 2005 AOY race which kicked off at Caliraya Lake, Laguna, last Saturday.

Fr. Horacio golf Feb. 7

THE ATENEO de Manila is inviting all golfing alumni and students to the second Fr. Horacio de la Costa, SJ Golf Tournament on Monday, Feb. 7, at the Canlubang Golf and Country Club. Registration starts at 6:30 a.m. while tee time follows at 8 a.m. Tournament organizers have set a four-man team scramble format with one student and three alumni per team. Thus one student from the ADMU Grade School, High School, and Loyola Schools or Professional Schools will team up with any three alumni. Scoring will be via stroke play with handicaps applied. Deadline for submission of entries/team lineup is on Wednesday, Feb. 2. Hole assignments will be posted at the playing venue. Trophies will be awarded to the tournament's champion and runners-up in each category/division. Tournament fee is P2,000 per alumnus player (with built-in subsidy to cover tour fee for the student player). This includes green fee, a giveaway and raffle participation.

Aces take fitness test

ALASKA'S Don Allado, Brandon Cablay, Joachim Thoss and Mike Cortez, together with Sta. Lucia Realty's Kenneth Duremdes, took their turn yesterday in undergoing the RP Team physical fitness test at the Moro Lorenzo Sports Center. On Thursday, amateur standouts L.A. Tenorio, Japhet Aguilar and Mark Cardona are expected to take the test, while the invited pros from Talk 'N Text (Willie Miller, Yancy de Ocampo, Jimmy Alapag and Mark Telan) and Purefoods (James Yap, Kerby Raymundo and Noy Castillo) are scheduled any time this week. "Purefoods has been playing practically every day," said national coach Chot Reyes, who said he is planning to attend goodwill games between China and South Korea this month. The Asian powerhouses are to meet in Seoul on Jan. 28 and in Harbin on Jan. 30.

Ramirez starts revamp

PHILIPPINE Sports Commission officer in charge Butch Ramirez yesterday started what is believed to be a massive revamp in the commission when he relieved PSC executive director Edgardo Mateo from his position. There are still no name being floated as his successor yet but Mateo is reportedly being re-assigned to his original position as deputy executive director for finance. Ramirez, who is given a three to six months trial period by President Arroyo, didn't give a statement though he earlier promised to "redirect" the PSC, which has seen seven changes in chairmanship.

Sta. Ana derby set Jan. 27

A GUARANTEED prize of P300,000 plus bonus prizes for the fastest kill winners are up for grabs in the Daytime 3-Cock Derby on Jan. 27 at the Sta. Ana Cockpit. Derby hosts Kags Paliza and Aba Badiola said, with the entry fee pegged at only P4,400, many small-time cockers and backyard breeders are expected to participate. More than 120 fights are on tap in the event which will start at noon. The fastest kill champion will receive a refrigerator; second, color TV; third to fifth, washing machine; and sixth to 10th, mountain bike. Meanwhile, the schedule of hackfights at Sta. Ana Cockpit is every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Interested parties may call 898-3474 or 898-3475 for cockhouse reservation.

Top college fives clash in Champions League

THE 2004 collegiate basketball season sizzles anew on Feb. 11 when the third Champions League formally kicks off in various venues across the country.

Sixteen of the country's top college teams are vying for the honor and distinction of being the best school basketball team in the 2004-05 season.

Reigning champion Far Eastern University will be back to defend its title against 15 teams from Manila, the Visayas and Mindanao, according to tournament managing and marketing director Rey Gamboa.

"The Champions League is primarily being held to give our collegiate players the chance to develop their skills and talent since we believe that from this pool will come our future professional basketball stars," said Gamboa, Shell's former representative to the PBA board, at yesterday's PSA Forum, where he was joined by media coordinator Ed Mapa.

Philippine Basketball League commissioner Chino Trinidad has been designated to run the event, a brainchild of former national coach Joe Lipa.

The invited teams include reigning UAAP champion La Salle, Ateneo and Champions Cup inaugural winner University of the East, defending NCAA titlist Philippine Christian University, University of Perpetual Help, Letran, San Beda, and National Capital Region champions University of Manila and Emilio Aguinaldo College.

Also on the roster of teams are University of the Visayas, San Jose Recoletos, University of Southern Philippines, University of Cebu and West Negros College of Bacolod.

The winner in the Davao qualifying tourney is also assured of a berth in the league.

Patterned after the March Madness of the US NCAA, the two-week-long meet to be aired over NBN-4 will be a knockout competition, according to Gamboa.

"One loss and the team goes home," he added at the forum sponsored by Red Bull, Agfa Color and Pagcor.

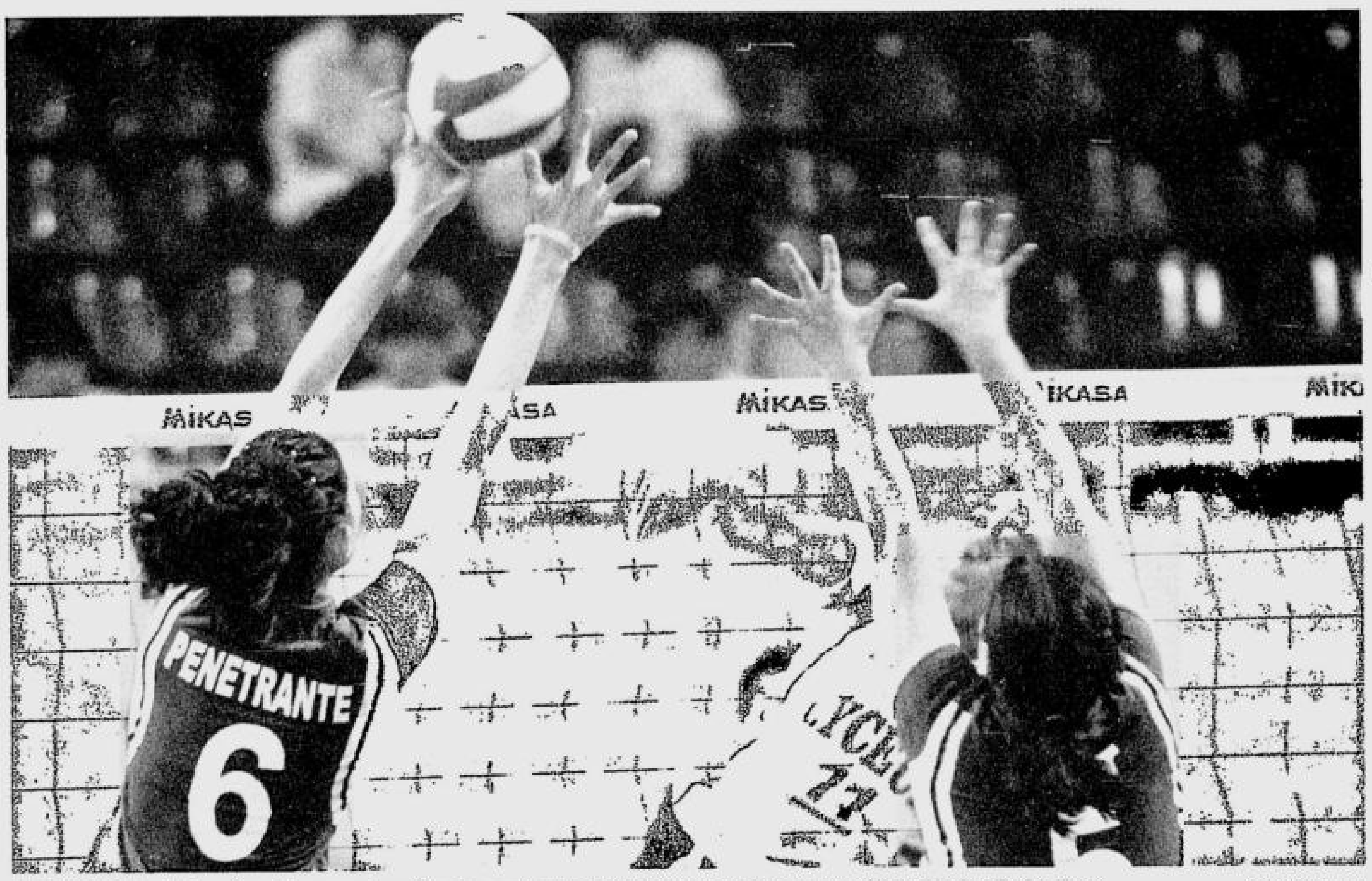
The champion team will receive funding and scholarship programs amounting to P500,000 for the school's sports development program.

Games in Manila will be played at the San Beda and Blue Eagle gyms in Katipunan. Two playdates are slated in Cebu.

The quarterfinals, semifinals and championship games are slated Feb. 27 in Manila.

Every Saturday at 6 p.m. this month, four weekly TV episodes serving as primer for the opening competition will be aired over NBN-4.

REY Gamboa (right) explains the mechanics of the Champions League national caging. At left is Ed Mapa. JM GUIAO PUNZALAN



LYCEUM'S Maria Angelica Bigcas on the offensive against La Salle's Maureen Penetrante (6) and Relea Ferina Saet. ROMY HOMILLADA

Letran tossers survive SSC, keep hopes alive

GAMES TOMORROW (*Rizal Coliseum*)
3 p.m.—Far Eastern vs. PSC
5 p.m.—Santo Tomas vs Lyceum

By Musong R. Castillo

LETRAN stayed well inside the playoff cut, surviving a 29-point performance by Jennifer Bohawe and a San Sebastian crew that was playing for pride, 25-22, 22-25, 20-25, 25-21, 15-9, in the Shakey's V-League at the Rizal Coliseum.

The Lady Knights bucked a case of over-confidence after winning the first set, pulling out all stops in the final two frames to improve to 5-4 and climb into a tie with idle PSC for third place heading into the final two weeks of the eliminations.

Only the fourth spot is left to be disputed by Letran and the Lyceum Lady Pirates, who bowed to tournament co-leader La Salle, 25-15, 25-17, 19-25, 25-19, in the second game.

The Lady Archers leaned on sisters Michelle and Mayette Carolino anew as they raced to their eighth straight victory and a share of top spot with defending champion Santo Tomas.

Mixing a deadly brew of beauty and brawn, the Carolino sisters combined for 31 points, 25 of them coming in attack as the Lady Archers, the back-to-back UAAP champ, formally joined the Tigresses in the semifinals.

Skipper Maureen Penetrante, stepping up in the absence of injured utility spiker Carissa Gotis, chipped in 15 hits as the Lady Archers pinned a fifth loss in nine games on the Lady Pirates.

The defeat pushed Lyceum down to the fifth spot, half a game behind Letran.

A standout for San Sebastian even in beach volleyball, Bohawe's total featured 28 kills, probably the most by anyone in the two-month old tournament.

After winning the first set, it was obvious that Letran slacked off a bit, and this got the ire of coach Ernesto Pamilar and had San Sebastian setting the tables for an upset.

The Lady Stags have bowed out of further contention as early as last week.

"I challenged my players to play harder," said Pamilar in Filipino. "It was a case of over-confidence after we won the first set. I told them that we had a lot to lose in this game."

Letran has actually won its last three outings, counting a straight sets victory over the Legends last Sunday.

Pacquiao love-sick, not missing

By Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES, California—No, Manny Pacquiao is not missing. But he's "love-sick."

Uneasy, Pacquiao took a weekend break and left for San Francisco.

He came back here Monday still thinking of Erik Morales. He said he tried but could not get the good-looking Mexican ring legend out of his mind.

"*Hindi siya maalis sa isip ko, gabi at araw* (I think of him day and night,)" Pacquiao said of Morales, whom he fights in Las Vegas on March 19.

Pacquiao's burning desire could also border on infatuation.

"*Napapanaginipan ko na si Morales. Nagugutom ako, sobrang* excited *na ako dyan, eh* (I've been dreaming of Morales, I'm terribly excited about him)," Pacquiao confided to the INQUIRER yesterday.

He said he felt the same blues in the run-up to his fight against Marco Antonio Barrera, whom he demolished in November 2003.

Pacquiao said he left for San Francisco after completing his regimen Saturday. He spent Sunday in the cool, romantic city by the bay. He was, however, surprised when he returned to reports that he had gone missing.

"Sunday *naman*, I decided to go to San Francisco to sign some papers," he explained sounding a bit displeased at the reports.

Monday was regular workout day and Pacquiao did the usual long, punishing gym regimen.

He said their planned trip to promote the March 19 clash in Mexico City will hinge on their interview at the Mexican embassy here.

"We need to get our visas, *baka hindi kami pabalikin*," said Buboy Fernandez, Pacquiao's trainer.

Pacquiao is scheduled to spar Wednesday, but he said he would do it slowly and maybe start only with a four-round session.

There's no hurry to make the original adjustments which would have been a must had the Feb. 26 rematch against Juan Manuel Marquez not been scrapped.

Pacquiao, together with American trainer Freddie Roach, appears certain they will not have to do the chasing against Morales, a fierce and courageous competitor.

Said Roach: "Marquez is a boxer, but Morales is a fighter. I'm not worried, that will be to our advantage."

Morales' willingness to mix it up is clearly the reason why Pacquiao has started to be excited about the showdown, described by HBO as a riveting, historic match-up.

"Both fighters attack immediately, put pressure on their opponents and fire blistering punches," said the release issued by Top Rank.

"Morales and Pacquiao have been in many thrilling championship battles and are recognized by many as the two top action fighters in any weight class."

So far, there has been no significant change in the odds quoted at the betting windows in Las Vegas.

Pacquiao, highly favored, said he would be glad if the odds would become even come fight time.

"*Basta ako todo laban ko para sa Pilipinas at sa pamilya ko*," he said.

PACQUIAO has been dreaming of Morales.

UE spikers make it 7; Ateneo XI edges La Salle

UNIVERSITY of the East moved a win shy of clinching its third UAAP high school boys' volleyball championship Sunday, needing only to beat Ateneo this Saturday for a rare two-round sweep.

The Pages clinched their seventh win at the expense of dethroned champion La Salle-Zobel, 25-18, 25-14, 25-14, at the UE Gym 5.

In girls' action, Santo Tomas downed La Salle-Zobel in straight sets, 25-17, 25-18, 27-25, for its fifth straight victory.

Another win in volleyball this weekend will give the UE juniors their fourth crown this season. The Pages have already clinched two titles in table tennis and one in chess.

The Eaglets, who tote a 6-1 card, beat the University of the Philippines spikers, 25-16, 25-17, 28-8, also Sunday. Ateneo would forge a best-of-three showdown with a win against UE on Saturday.

The UST junior spikers lead the second-running UE girls by half a game following the Recto-based squad's 25-15, 25-23, 25-19 win over UP last weekend.

In football, Ignatius Ingles booted in the winning marker in the 88th minute as defending men's champion Ateneo edged arch rival La Salle, 3-2, Sunday at the Blue Eagle field in Loyola Heights.

Ateneo booked a double after the Lady Eagles, last season's cellar-dwellers, nipped Far Eastern, 1-0.

In other opening-day matches, UE held UP to a 1-1 deadlock and FEU and UST battled to a scoreless standoff.

The UP women edged UST, 1-0.

In tennis, UST won twice—on similar 3-0 scores against Ateneo and UE at the Rizal Racket Club in Pasig City—Sunday to extend its undefeated run to six.

Defending champion La Salle (6-1) beat UP, 2-1.

KONIKA MINOLTA PRO-AM

110 pairs vying for P1.5-M cash pot

A MAXIMUM 110 tandems featuring the country's finest golf pros and amateurs will vie in the Konika Minolta National Pro-Am slated Feb. 9-12 at the Riviera in Silang, Cavite.

The compact field and strict rules on pairings ensure that competition will be stiff, said U-Bix Corp. chair and CEO Bert Bravo.

"We only want the best of the best to be in the competition," said Bravo, who revived the event in 2001 in alliance with Commodore Danny Pizarro, president of Riviera Golf Club.

The NGAP-sanctioned event will be played at the Langer, the tougher of the two Riviera courses designed by Bernhard Langer, the former Masters champion from Germany.

The traditional Celebrity Pro-Am featuring some of the country's leading captains of the industry and government and sports personalities will be held on Feb. 8.

Shoei Yamana, Ko Hasegawa, Kahori Hisano and Tadayoshi Yamada, all-Japanese executives from Konica Minolta of Japan, are expected to grace the celebrity tournament.

Bravo, whose alliance with Konica Minolta has reinforced the tournament's stature, said a cash pot of P1.5 million is at stake in the tournament.

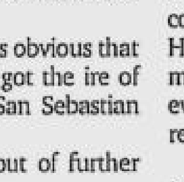
"I cannot thank Konica Minolta Corp. of Japan enough for always being there since we re-launched the Pro-Am in 2001," said Bravo, who also bankrolled the Manila U-Bix Open in the '90s that featured Asia's top par-busters and several budding stars from America, Australia and Europe.

Gerard Cantada and amateur partner JR Tanpinco are the defending champions in the 72-hole Konica Minolta event supported by Riso, Epson, Brother Office, Casio, Okamura, Planex Network, ServiceMaster, Terminix, Merry Maids, Grappa's Ristorante, Caffe Appassionato, Pivo Praha, WineMaster and Bravo Golf.

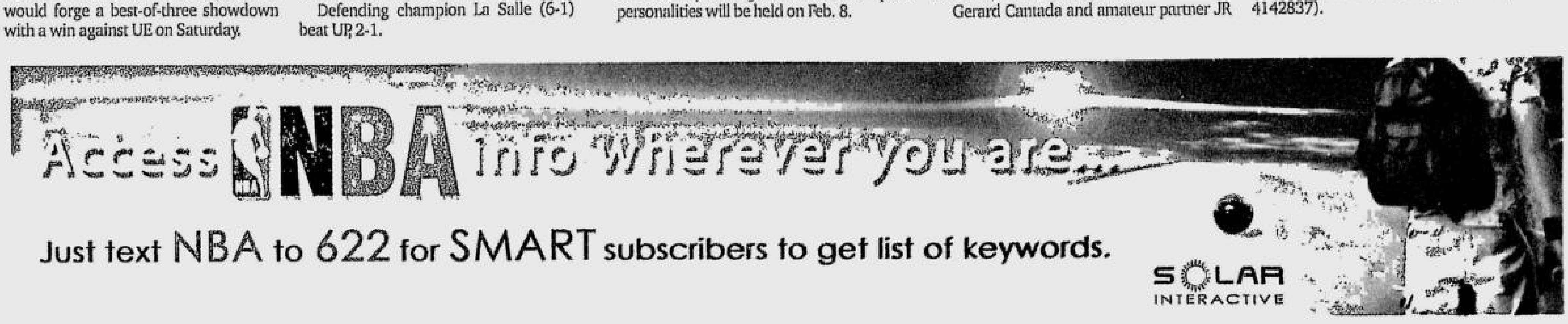
The one-ball, twosome tournament requires that the Top 30 pros ranked by the organizing committee pair only with amateurs with handicap indices of 5 and below as of January 2005.

"That rule is fair enough," said Taby Tabaniag, who will again head the rules committee that includes Jake Ayson and Al Mendoza. "It levels the playing field."

Participants in the event that also stakes the Bravo Cup have until Jan. 31 to register, either at the NGAP offices (5256987, 524-5160) or Riviera (8889127, 046-2868, 046-4142837).



BRAVO



Just text NBA to 622 for SMART subscribers to get list of keywords.
SOLAR INTERACTIVE

DETROIT Pistons forward Tayshaun Prince finishes a transition play stylishly on the way to leading his team to victory. REUTERS

Prince reigns supreme as Pistons eclipse Suns

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan—Tayshaun Prince scored a career-high 26 points to lead the Detroit Pistons past reeling Phoenix, 94-80, Monday, the NBA-leading Suns' fourth straight loss.

The Suns were held to a season-low point total and clearly missed Steve Nash, who was sidelined for a second consecutive game with a bruised left thigh. The point guard hopes to play Wednesday at home against Memphis.

After opening the season 31-4, Phoenix has gone 0-4. The Pistons are headed in the opposite direction, with six victories in a row.

Joe Johnson led the Suns with 17 points. Amare Stoudemire scored 16 and Quentin Richardson 13.

Detroit's Richard Hamilton scored 16 points, Rasheed Wallace and Antonio McDyess each had 13, and Ben Wallace added 11 points and 15 rebounds.

In New York, Ben Gordon scored on a driving 8-footer with one-tenth of a second remaining to give Chicago a nervy 88-86 victory over the Knicks, extending the Bulls' winning streak to seven games.

The string of victories is the longest for Chicago since the 1997-98 team won 13 straight.

Gordon, who scored 13 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter, went around a screen to free himself of Jamal Crawford, then took two more steps into the lane and launched his game-winner over the outstretched arm of Michael Sweetney.

Luol Deng led Chicago with 19 points, Kirk Hinrich had 14 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists and Andres Nocioni came off the bench to add 13 points and 11 rebounds.

Stephon Marbury had 25 points to lead the Knicks, who lost for the seventh time in eight games.

AP

COMPLETE NBA RESULTS

Chicago nips New York, 88-86; Milwaukee trips Charlotte, 99-92; New Jersey edges Atlanta, 85-84; Philadelphia slips past New Orleans, 95-91; Detroit trounces Phoenix, 94-80; Sacramento defeats LA Clippers, 89-83; San Antonio routs Washington, 101-73; Toronto clubs Minnesota, 100-91; Memphis crushes Houston, 99-80; Utah whips LA Lakers, 102-94; Golden State bashes Denver, 107-97.

MEMPHIS center Stromile S
giant Houston counterpart Y.

Maroons, Patriots rip NCRAA foes

GAMES TODAY (*Pasay Sports Complex*)
9 a.m.—NCBA vs CDSL
10:30 a.m.—La Salle-Dasmarinas vs EAC

POLYTECHNIC University of the Philippines and La Salle-Dasmariñas posted smashing victories yesterday in the 12th National Capital Region Athletic Association men's basketball tournament at the Pasay Sports Complex.

Gilbert Nunez scattered 21 points as the PUP Maroons stunned defending champion St. Francis, 75-57.

The La Salle-Dasmariñas Patriots, on the other hand, waylaid National College of Business and Arts, 99-92, behind the guns of John Edward Macalma and Jun Salado.

The wins enabled the Maroons and the Patriots to catch up with early leaders Emilio Aguinaldo College and Arellano University, which prevailed over Rizal Technological University and Colegio de San Lorenzo, respectively, the other day.

It was the first time in 11 seasons for the Maroons to score a win over the inexperienced St. Francis Doves, who badly missed injured veteran Jeffrey Mella and Lawrence Bonus.

Tribu Sugbu, Taguig renew old rivalry

GAMES TODAY (*Cebu Coliseum*)
4 p.m.—General Feeds vs Laguna Spring
6 p.m.—Opening ceremony
6:15 p.m.—Tribu Sugbu vs Forward Taguig

CEBU CITY—The Skygo-backed Tribu Sugbu and Sulpicio Lines-Forward Taguig renew their basketball feud at 4 p.m. today at the start of the Panasonic NBC pre-season tournament at the Cebu Coliseum.

It will be the first meeting between the Cebuanos of Lito Gillamac Jr. and Mayor Freddie Tinga's Taguig cagers since the first NBC national championship, which Tribu Sugbu won.

Cebu Basketball Federation grand slam champion General Feeds and the Spring Cooking Oil-backed Laguna Spring of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Laguna Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro will square off in the second game at 6:15, right after the 6 p.m. opening ceremony.

The pre-season series sponsored by Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring, Molten and JY Square Mall will end on Jan. 22, according to NBC secretary general Tito Palma.

With Tribu Sugbu's core playing for Granny Goose in the PBL, the inaugural champions are expected to have their hands full against Taguig, which is virtually intact, having lost only Ogie Gumatay, Ricky Ricafuente and Mico Roldan.

NBC coach of the year Danny Gavieres' new Taguig players include Nat Cruz, Kim Gandarosa, Ariel de Castro and Steve Marucot.

To beef up his squad, Tribu Sugbu coach Al Solis recruited ex-pro Lowell Briones, Arnie Tuadles' son, Apple, Boyet Guerrero and Melfred Sampilo.

PHILIP MORRIS
100's
QUALIT

MENTHO

© Philip Morris Products S.A. 2005

Government Warning: Cigarette sm

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

vift (left) dunks against
ıo Ming. AP

Singh: New year, new tests

HONOLULU—The procession of interviews was almost over and Vijay Singh was in no hurry. He had the Pacific Ocean on his left, the Sony Open trophy on a table to his right and a load lifted from his broad shoulders.

He had never won this early in the season. The timing could not have been better.

"This is what I needed," Singh said after playing mistake-free on Sunday at Waialae Country Club, hitting a clutch drive to set up a routine birdie on the 18th hole for a one-shot victory over Ernie Els.

Even though he is No. 1 in golf's world ranking and on top of his game, Singh was tense about the 2005 season.

He was coming off a year in which he became only the sixth man in US PGA Tour history to win at least nine times. His earnings of nearly $11 million shattered the tour record.

He faced a different kind of pressure—the encore.

And in his first tournament of the year, Singh blew a 54-hole lead for the first time since 2001, He was poised to win the Mercedes Championships last week until he hooked a tee shot into the waist-high grass at Kapalua and made triple bogey, ultimately costing him a chance to win.

Then he showed up at the Sony Open, a tournament where he has never finished better than eighth.

"Everybody thinks, 'Is he going to win again? Is he going to win again?' I missed an opportunity last week that could actually work against me if I do that," Singh said. "I think this is going to help. This is a great relief. I can start breathing again and go play more comfortable for the rest of the season.

"I'm looking forward to the rest of it."

That wasn't the case earlier in the week at Waialae. Singh looked like he was simply going through the motions, trading birdies or sloppy bogeys, shooting even par on the back nine of his second round.

His focus was gone when he walked up the fourth green and said to a television reporter, "This game is crazy. I don't understand it."

But then came a stellar recovery from deep in the left rough on No. 5 when his lofted pitch barely cleared the bunker and stopped 4 feet from the pin for par. And he closed out the round with a 40-foot eagle putt that dropped into the cup on its last turn.

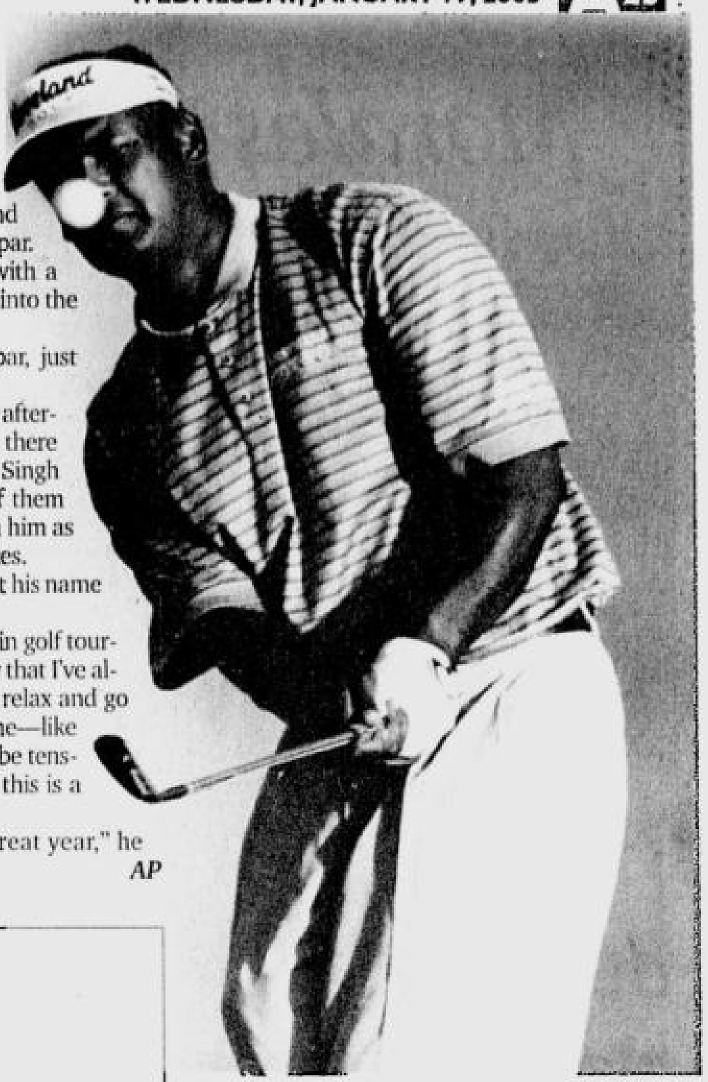
Suddenly, he was 3 under par, just five shots from the lead.

And when he teed off Sunday afternoon in blustery conditions, there were only five players between Singh and the lead. He knew none of them would be able to run away from him as long as he eliminated the mistakes.

All it took was one burst to get his name atop the leaderboard.

"I want to go out there and win golf tournaments, and this is a relief now that I've already won one," he said. "I can relax and go out and play. If I had not won one—like I let one go last week—I would be tensing up as the weeks go by. But this is a big load off my back."

"I think it's going to be a great year," he said. *AP*



VIJAY Singh relieves himself of a lot of pressure with a victory in the recent Sony Open.

Wie targets four LPGA tour majors

BALTIMORE, Maryland—Teenage golfing phenom Michelle Wie is looking to play in all four of the women's tour majors after accepting an invitation on Monday to compete in the LPGA Championship.

"We could not be happier having Michelle Wie in our field," tournament founder Herb Lotman said. "This is what ladies golf is all about—the best of the best competing in one field."

WIE: Major plans

The 2005 LPGA Championship is scheduled for June 9-12 at the Bulle Rock Country Club in Havre de Grace, 50 kilometers northeast of Baltimore.

Wie competed at last week's men's Sony Open but missed the cut and finished near the back of the pack.

This is the first year amateurs like Wie will be permitted to play in the LPGA Championship. Organizers boosted the field to 150 players from 144.

Wie has an exemption to compete in the US Women's Open and has accepted an invite to take part in the another major in Palm Springs, California, on March 24-27.

She is expected to get an exemption to the Women's British Open and the LPGA Championship would be the fourth major. *AFP*

Samsung golf draws record tourney field

THE FOURTH Samsung Interscholastic golf championships has lured a record field, featuring more than 140 players from 30 schools in Metro Manila and nearby cities.

The 54-hole tournament, part of Samsung's thrust to develop junior players, starts Jan. 22 at the Tagaytay Highlands with the last two rounds on Jan. 23 and 24 at the Tagaytay Midlands.

Willy Ocier, host venues chair, opened the exclusive doors of the club to boost interschool competitions in the country.

Ocier also asked Tagaytay general manager Nick Celdran and assistant GM for golf and sports Loy Bernardino to do the same.

Competing this weekend are bets from Academy of St. John, Ateneo, Brent, British School Manila, Canossa Academy, Colegio de San Agustin, La Salle-Taft, La Salle-Lipa, Elizabeth Seton, European International School, Global City Innovative College, Golden Acres, Holy Family Parochial, International School-Manila, Kotska, La Salle Greenhills.

Las Piñas High, Lourdes-Mandaluyong, Lukban School, Maria Montessori-QC, Miriam, OB Montessori, Poveda, San Beda-Alabang, San Benildo Integrated, Southridge, St. Paul-Pasig, The Master's Academy, University of Asia&Pacific and Xavier.

Sponsors include Tokyo Tokyo Great Japanese, ABC Beverage, KZG by Custom Clubmakers, Rudy Project, Coppertone Sports, Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines, Rogin E and radio stations Jam 88.3, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.98, 99.5 RT, 103.5 K-Lite and Killer Bee.

Celdran said that they're giving discounts to players who are using their hotel and cottages aside from unlimited free practice rounds until Jan. 21.

COLD. FRESH. FROSTY.

WINTER IS HERE.

Philip Morris 100's. Premium Taste in Menthol.

noking is dangerous to your health

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

vift (left) dunks against
ιo Ming. AP

Singh: New year, new tests

HONOLULU—The procession of interviews was almost over and Vijay Singh was in no hurry. He had the Pacific Ocean on his left, the Sony Open trophy on a table to his right and a load lifted from his broad shoulders.

He had never won this early in the season. The timing could not have been better.

"This is what I needed," Singh said after playing mistake-free on Sunday at Waialae Country Club, hitting a clutch drive to set up a routine birdie on the 18th hole for a one-shot victory over Ernie Els.

Even though he is No. 1 in golf's world ranking and on top of his game, Singh was tense about the 2005 season.

He was coming off a year in which he became only the sixth man in US PGA Tour history to win at least nine times. His earnings of nearly $11 million shattered the tour record.

He faced a different kind of pressure—the encore.

And in his first tournament of the year, Singh blew a 54-hole lead for the first time since 2001. He was poised to win the Mercedes Championships last week until he hooked a tee shot into the waist-high grass at Kapalua and made triple bogey, ultimately costing him a chance to win.

Then he showed up at the Sony Open, a tournament where he has never finished better than eighth.

"Everybody thinks, 'Is he going to win again? Is he going to win again?' I missed an opportunity last week that could actually work against me if I do that," Singh said. "I think this is going to help. This is a great relief. I can start breathing again and go play more comfortable for the rest of the season.

"I'm looking forward to the rest of it."

That wasn't the case earlier in the week at Waialae. Singh looked like he was simply going through the motions, trading birdies or sloppy bogeys, shooting even par on the back nine of his second round.

His focus was gone when he walked up the fourth green and said to a television reporter, "This game is crazy. I don't understand it."

But then came a stellar recovery from deep in the left rough on No. 5 when his lofted pitch barely cleared the bunker and stopped 4 feet from the pin for par. And he closed out the round with a 40-foot eagle putt that dropped into the cup on its last turn.

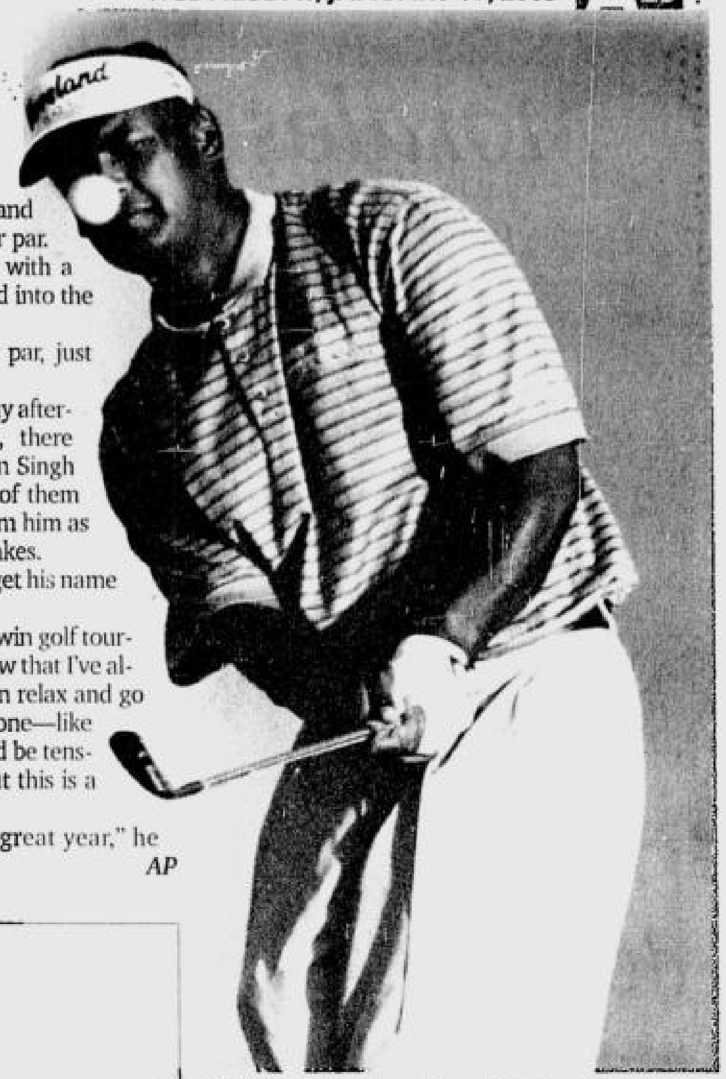
Suddenly, he was 3 under par, just five shots from the lead.

And when he teed off Sunday afternoon in blustery conditions, there were only five players between Singh and the lead. He knew none of them would be able to run away from him as long as he eliminated the mistakes.

All it took was one burst to get his name atop the leaderboard.

"I want to go out there and win golf tournaments, and this is a relief now that I've already won one," he said. "I can relax and go out and play. If I had not won one—like I let one go last week—I would be tensing up as the weeks go by. But this is a big load off my back."

"I think it's going to be a great year," he said. *AP*



VIJAY Singh relieves himself of a lot of pressure with a victory in the recent Sony Open.

Wie targets four LPGA tour majors

BALTIMORE, Maryland—Teenage golfing phenom Michelle Wie is looking to play in all four of the women's tour majors after accepting an invitation on Monday to compete in the LPGA Championship.

"We could not be happier having Michelle Wie in our field," tournament founder Herb Lotman said. "This is what ladies golf is all about—the best of the best competing in one field."

WIE: Major plans

The 2005 LPGA Championship is scheduled for June 9-12 at the Bulle Rock Country Club in Havre de Grace, 50 kilometers northeast of Baltimore.

Wie competed at last week's men's Sony Open but missed the cut and finished near the back of the pack.

This is the first year amateurs like Wie will be permitted to play in the LPGA Championship. Organizers boosted the field to 150 players from 144.

Wie has an exemption to compete in the US Women's Open and has accepted an invite to take part in the another major in Palm Springs, California, on March 24-27.

She is expected to get an exemption to the Women's British Open and the LPGA Championship would be the fourth major. *AFP*

Samsung golf draws record tourney field

THE FOURTH Samsung Interscholastic golf championships has lured a record field, featuring more than 140 players from 30 schools in Metro Manila and nearby cities.

The 54-hole tournament, part of Samsung's thrust to develop junior players, starts Jan. 22 at the Tagaytay Highlands with the last two rounds on Jan. 23 and 24 at the Tagaytay Midlands.

Willy Ocier, host venues chair, opened the exclusive doors of the club to boost interschool competitions in the country.

Ocier also asked Tagaytay general manager Nick Celdran and assistant GM for golf and sports Loy Bernardino to do the same.

Competing this weekend are bets from Academy of St. John, Ateneo, Brent, British School Manila, Canossa Academy, Colegio de San Agustin, La Salle-Taft, La Salle-Lipa, Elizabeth Seton, European International School, Global City Innovative College, Golden Acres, Holy Family Parochial, International School-Manila, Kotska, La Salle Greenhills.

Las Piñas High, Lourdes-Mandaluyong, Lukban School, Maria Montessori-QC, Miriam, OB Montessori, Poveda, San Beda-Alabang, San Benildo Integrated, Southridge, St. Paul-Pasig, The Master's Academy, University of Asia&Pacific and Xavier.

Sponsors include Tokyo Tokyo Great Japanese, ABC Beverage, KZG by Custom Clubmakers, Rudy Project, Coppertone Sports, Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines, Rogin E and radio stations Jam 88.3, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.98, 99.5 RT, 103.5 K-Lite and Killer Bee.

Celdran said that they're giving discounts to players who are using their hotel and cottages aside from unlimited free practice rounds until Jan. 21.

COLD. FRESH. FROSTY.

WINTER IS HERE.

Philip Morris 100's. Premium Taste in Menthol.

noking is dangerous to your health

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Morales vows: No more womanizing

By Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

ADMITTING for the first time that his recent loss to Marco Antonio was due to his liaison with a woman, legendary Mexican warrior Erik Morales yesterday vowed not to commit the same mistake when he takes on Filipino ring sensation Manny Pacquiao on March 19.

Morales confided to the Mexican press that one week of passion with a woman caused him to lose concentration while training for his rubber match with compatriot Marco Antonio Barrera, who eventually beat him last November.

"It's all about training hard," Morales said in an interview with Darren Nichols of Boxingtalk. "Get good people around you. Get ready to fight, study the fight, know what you're going up against and then you go at it."

Morales welcomed the fact that for the first time in his 12 years as a prizefighter, he has not been installed as the favorite against Pacquiao when they fight at the MGM Grand Garden Casino in Las Vegas.

"I will not have to worry about Pacquiao, a boxer who is prepared to win and someone who has already gained the confidence of the big television networks through his performance," Morales said.

Morales is guaranteed $2.5 million to face Pacquiao, who stands to get $1.75 million.

Both fighters will also earn from pay-per-view uptake of the bout to be broadcast worldwide, according to sources.

MORALES

FedEx ends Lipa's services

WITH A heavy heart, the FedEx Express yesterday parted ways with their veteran mentor Joe Lipa, who in turn, moves on to another phase of his association with the logistics solutions provider giant.

Air21 president Lito Alvarez, who is also team manager of the Bert Lina-owned Express team in the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA), made the difficult announcement yesterday after a heart-to-heart talk with the multititled mentor.

"This is such a tough decision on our part because coach Lipa has actually made great contributions to the FedEx team despite his short stint with our organization," said Alvarez.

"But what made it easier is the fact that coach [Lipa] is such a professional, he said whatever decision management makes, he will accept with an open mind and heart."

Lina, for his part, said: "We are grateful to his contributions to the team. And even though he has his own distinct style of coaching, he always acceded to the philosophy of the team, like having all of our 12 players get ample time on the playing court and giving us a running team. He gave us the team that we wanted and more."

Alvarez revealed that he even offered Lipa to slide back to his old position with the team as consultant but he politely begged off.

Lipa, the veteran mentor who was a heartbeat away from steering an all-amateur team to the gold medal round of the 1986 Seoul Asian Games, will, however, not entirely say goodbye to FedEx and Air21, according to Alvarez.

"He is still associated with our family through our sales department," Alvarez said. "We all know that he is such a respected figure in the community, and we know he can help in promoting our product big-time.

"He even said that opportunities with FedEx and Air21's business side are boundless."

Alvarez stressed that Lipa has actually given the Express team a huge favor by accepting the coaching post last year, despite his hectic schedule with the Philippine Youth Team.

"We know for a fact that during the time when we considered him to be a coach of our team, he was head mentor of the Youth Team," said the team manager.

"*Malaki talaga ang utang na loob namin kay* coach (We really owe coach much) because he found time to accept our invitation."

The Express, despite failing to make it past the quarterfinals of the Philippine Cup, have matured by leaps and bounds under Lipa, said Alvarez.

Roddick sweeps past foe

Davenport, Myskina bring down Australian Open rivals

MELBOURNE, Australia—Second-ranked Andy Roddick needed a while to figure out a hard-serving left-hander to win his first-round match at the Australian Open on Tuesday—good preparation for another southpaw who pounds the ball even harder.

Roddick, seeking his second Grand Slam title, let an early break opportunity slip away before finally jumping on Irakli Labadze when it seemed that a first-set tiebreaker was imminent, then had little trouble the rest of the way against the beefy Georgian ranked only 75th, winning, 7-5, 6-2, 6-1.

He next faces Greg Rusedski, who lost the first four games to Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman before rallying for a 2-6, 6-4, 6-0, 7-6 (7) win. Although Roddick has a 3-1 edge in head-to-head meetings, one of Rusedski's most memorable victories came against Roddick at Wimbledon in 2002, and he says he's stronger mentally than ever.

Russian Anastasia Myskina was her usual temperamental self, committing only four errors while rushing through the first set of her match against Kveta Peschke, then barely holding on after losing her last three service games for a 6-1, 6-4 victory.

All three of Russia's 2004 major winners are into the second round, with Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova, seeded fourth, and fifth-seeded Svetlana Kuznetsova, the US Open champion, winning Monday, along with 2003 Australian champion Serena Williams.

Roddick lost only five points on serve in the first set. But after Labadze double-faulted twice in his first game to give Roddick triple break point, he rallied to win the game. Roddick didn't get another chance until Labadze, serving at 5-6, handed him the set with mistakes.

Next up is Rusedski.

"Greg's an uncomfortable match on any surface," Roddick said. "He's going to hit big serves, he's going to be all over the net and he's going to be very intense."

Rusedski said he can't wait.

"I very much look forward to it," he said. "I think mentally I'm stronger now than I've ever been."

Rafael Nadal, who beat Roddick in Spain's 3-2 win over the United States last month in the Davis Cup final, had a 6-0, 6-4, 6-2 win over Julien Benneteau of France. Only one seeded man lost, No. 19 American Vincent Spadea in five sets to the Czech Republic's Radek Stepanek.

Davenport's revenge

Meanwhile, it took more than 10 years and seven Grand Slam tournaments, but Lindsay Davenport finally evened the score with Conchita Martinez.

Trailing the Spanish veteran 8-7 going into Tuesday's first-rounder at Melbourne Park, the top-seeded Davenport beat Martinez, 6-1, 6-0, in one of Davenport's easiest matches of her career to even their career head-to-heads.

Based on the form guide, it shouldn't have been that easy.

Martinez had beaten Davenport in six previous meetings at Grand Slams—1994 Wimbledon, the 1995 and 1996 Australian Open, 1996 French Open, 1998 Australian Open and 2003 at the French.

"She's given me a lot of fits early in my career," Davenport said. "It's so odd—there's not many people that I could play in the first round that I don't have a winning record against."

The shutout second set took only 20 minutes. Davenport had four aces in the match, which was the same number of double faults by Martinez.

Davenport said she couldn't find too much fault with her performance.

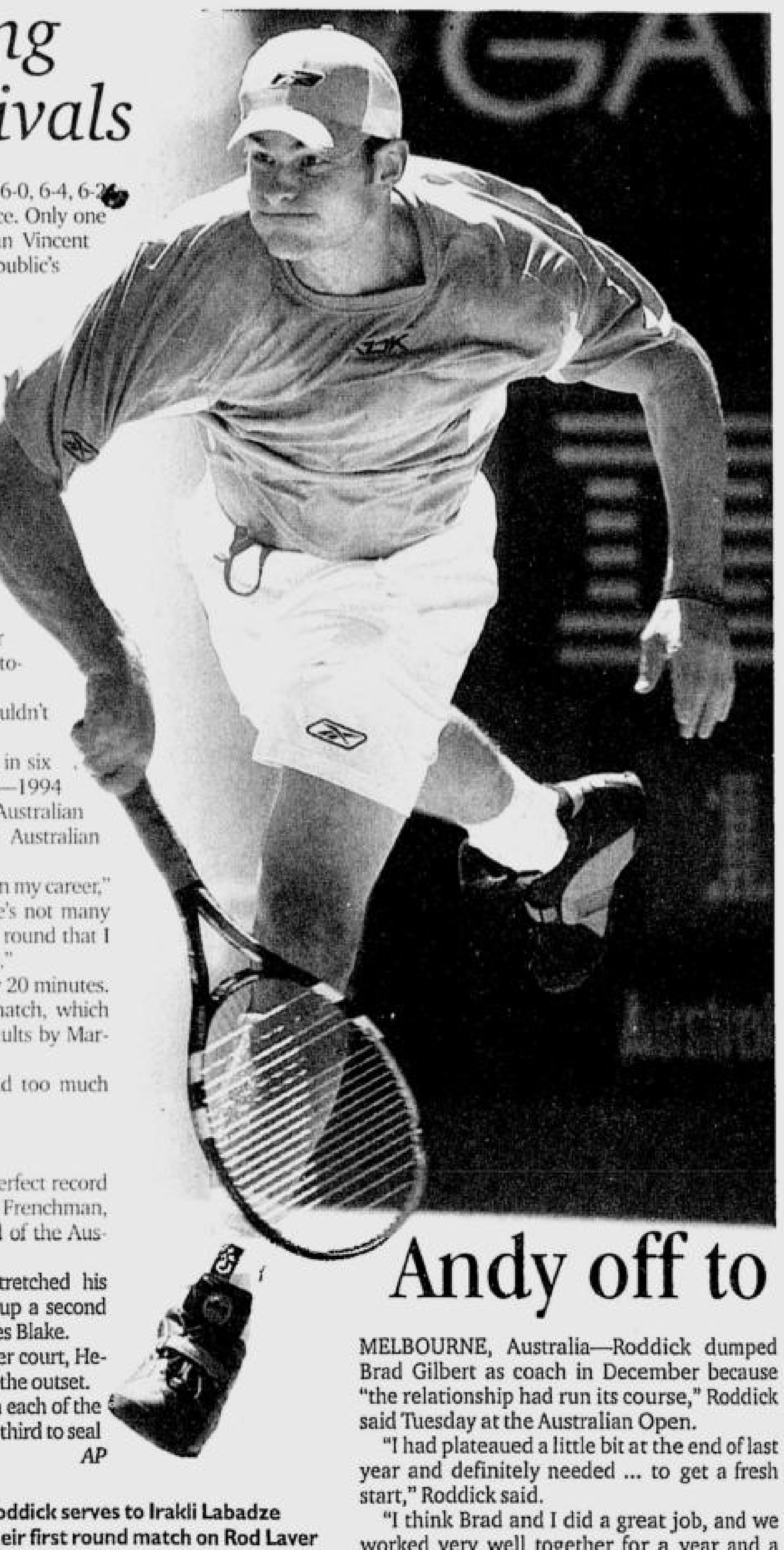
Hewitt advances

Lleyton Hewitt maintained his perfect record against Arnaud Clement to beat the Frenchman, 6-3, 6-4, 6-1, in the opening round of the Australian Open on Tuesday.

The Australian world No. 3 stretched his record over Clement to 7-0 to set up a second round meeting with American James Blake.

Playing in front of a packed center court, Hewitt took control of the match from the outset.

He broke Clement's serve once in each of the first two sets then three times in the third to seal victory in less than two hours. *AP*


ANDY Roddick serves to Irakli Labadze during their first round match on Rod Laver Arena. Roddick, swapping coaches because he needed "a fresh start," got his Australian Open bid to a sweeping start. AP

LINDSAY Davenport of the US hits a return against Conchita Martinez in their women's singles first round match. AFP

Andy off to a fresh start

MELBOURNE, Australia—Roddick dumped Brad Gilbert as coach in December because "the relationship had run its course," Roddick said Tuesday at the Australian Open.

"I had plateaued a little bit at the end of last year and definitely needed ... to get a fresh start," Roddick said.

"I think Brad and I did a great job, and we worked very well together for a year and a half. I just decided it was time to go in a new direction."

"The last six months or so, I had stopped kind of improving. And that's something I definitely wanted to work on."

Roddick said Gilbert was disappointed with the decision.

"I called him, and we spoke for a while, he obviously was disappointed," said Roddick. "I was disappointed too. It's never fun when you have a good amount of success with someone and you part ways. But he's been good about it."

Roddick is now working with US Davis Cup assistant coach Dean Goldfine. *AP*

US Open champ denies drug charges

MELBOURNE, Australia—US Open tennis champion Svetlana Kuznetsova said Tuesday she's certain she will be exonerated of allegations of doping at an offseason charity match in Belgium.

The Russian star was tested during the Dec. 18-19 Women's Tennis Trophy exhibition tournament in Charleroi, Claude Eerdekens, a regional sports minister in Belgium, said Monday.

Kuznetsova's backup sample hasn't been tested; rules call for two positive samples and a review before punishment.

Kuznetsova, in a statement released Tuesday at the Australian Open, admitted taking a cold medicine, the potential source for the banned stimulant ephedrine, at the Belgian tournament.

"There is absolutely no reason why I would take a stimulant to enhance my performance at an out-of-competion exhibition match in the middle of the off-season," she said. "I pride myself on being a clean athlete of the highest integrity and am offended by these disgraceful allegations. I am sure of my innocence."

WTA Tour chief executive Larry Scott doubts Kuznetsova will be penalized.

"Understanding what I do now, I find it very hard to imagine that there will be anything of any significance resulting from this," Scott said.

He said he had tried without success to speak with Eerdekens and called the Belgian's announcement "premature, highly irresponsible and damaging to the sport. It's something that could possibly be a common cold remedy, and the player might be innocent. Yet he's gone ahead and publicly tainted the sport." *AP*

KUZNETSOVA: Clean REUTERS

Exeter eyes football upset at home turf

LONDON—Exeter was given no chance when it was drawn to face defending champion Manchester United in the third round of the FA Cup.

Then came a 0-0 draw before 67,500 fans at Old Trafford.

Reds manager Alex Ferguson fumed as his team failed to beat a club 93 places below them in the English soccer hierarchy.

Now, the tiny club from southwest England faces the Reds in a replay at its 9,500 capacity St. James' Park ground on Wednesday. A victory for the Grecians would be the biggest upset in the 133-year history of soccer's most famous domestic cup competition.

Bigger than Hereford 2, Newcastle 1 in 1972; Sutton 2, Coventry 1 in 1989; Wrexham 2, Arsenal 1 in 1992 and Shrewsbury 2, Everton 1 in 2003.

"You can never say never and maybe we could achieve another good result on Wednesday," Exeter striker Sean Devine said. "We have a great spirit and everyone is together, so long may it continue."

Wednesday's schedule includes three other FA Cup replays—Blackburn vs. Cardiff, Boston vs. Hartlepool and Fulham vs. Watford.

Exeter, which almost went bankrupt when it dropped out of the Football League two seasons ago, is enjoying the spotlight again. This is even bigger than when Exeter beat Leicester and Newcastle to reach the quarterfinals in 1981 before losing to eventual champion Tottenham.

Steve Perryman was the Tottenham captain that day and now is Exeter's director of football. *AP*

Pasig River marathon goes international

THE PASIG River Heritage Marathon has just gone international.

The annual 42-k event for a cause will now feature foreign runners for the whole world to be aware of the ongoing rehabilitation project of Manila's famous river.

Former First Lady Amelita Ramos, chairperson of the organizing Clean and Green Foundation, formally launched the event, now dubbed 'Philippine Marathon for Pasig River,' in the first session of the PSA Forum for the year 2005 yesterday.

"This is not just an ordinary running event but a sports environmental advocacy," said Mrs. Ramos in a rare appearance in the public sports program sponsored by Red Bull, Agfa Colors and Pagcor. "It's a run for a cause. Hopefully, with the presence of foreign runners, we'll be able to gain international exposure for the rehabilitation of the Pasig River."

Set on Feb. 27, the race starts at the Fort Santiago in Manila and culminates in the Global City of Fort Bonifacio, passing through streets parallel to the Pasig River and 11 of the 13 bridges crossing it.

The champion in the men's event receives a whopping P100,000, while the distaff side winner gets P75,000.

Shortly after saying her piece, Mrs. Ramos promptly left the weekly session as she went straight to Malacañang to attend the first in a series of pledging sessions being undertaken by the First Gentleman Foundation for the training and preparations of the Filipino athletes for the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

"You have to excuse me for now because I have to go to Malacañang to get money for our badminton players," said the former First Lady, drawing laughter from the crowd.

Mrs. Ramos also happens to be the president of the Philippine Badminton Association (PBA).

During the same forum, Games and Amusements Board (GAB) Chair Eric Buhain and former Philippine Sports Commissioner Tisha Abundo were officially designated as chairpersons of the meet that offers a total of P536,000 in cash prizes.

Running priest Fr. Robert Reyes and Ben Silva-Netto, executive director of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association (Patafa), are the race directors.

"Reklamo ... Puro Reklamo,
Pero, 'Tay, Ano Ba Ang Nagawa N'yo
Para Sa Bayan?"

Enshrine Yourself Among The Gallery Of Heroes. Join Our United Stand In Pushing Our Country Forward.

The Global Filipino Networking Convention
January 20-22, 2005 • Waterfront Hotel, Cebu City Philippines
You can register 4 ways: By Phone: (63 32) 234-1282 • (63 32) 255-1230 • Fax: (63 32) 234-1463 • (63 32) 254-7850
Email: travelvision@skyinet.net • tourkonsult@yahoo.com • Website: www.thirdglobalcebu.com

Presented to you by:

SMART Simply Amazing!

PLDT

GMA Kapuso Foundation

NaFFAA

In cooperation with:

Philippine Daily Inquirer

MBC Manila Broadcasting Company

Networks

92.3 Joey it's a groove thing!

DDB

"Reklamo ... Puro Reklamo,
Pero, 'Tay, Ano Ba Ang Nagawa N'yo
Para Sa Bayan?"

Enshrine Yourself Among The Gallery Of Heroes. Join Our United Stand In Pushing Our Country Forward.

The Global Filipino Networking Convention

January 20-22, 2005 • Waterfront Hotel, Cebu City Philippines

You can register 4 ways: By Phone: (63 32) 234-1282 • (63 32) 255-1230 • Fax: (63 32) 234-1463 • (63 32) 254-7850

Email: travelvision@skyinet.net • tourkonsult@yahoo.com • Website: www.thirdglobalcebu.com

Presented to you by:

SMART
Simply Amazing!

PLDT

GMA
KAPUSO FOUNDATION

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FILIPINO AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS
NaFFAA

In cooperation with:

CEBU

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MBC
MANILA BROADCASTING COMPANY

NETWORKS

NBC

923 JOEY
it's a groove thing!

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM
PHILIPPINES

OFFICIAL SEAL
CITY OF CEBU

DDB

"Reklamo ... Puro Reklamo,
Pero, 'Tay, Ano Ba Ang Nagawa N'yo
Para Sa Bayan?"

Enshrine Yourself Among The Gallery Of Heroes. Join Our United Stand In Pushing Our Country Forward.

The Global Filipino Networking Convention

January 20-22, 2005 • Waterfront Hotel, Cebu City Philippines

You can register 4 ways: By Phone: (63 32) 234-1282 • (63 32) 255-1230 • Fax: (63 32) 234-1463 • (63 32) 254-7850

Email: travelvision@skyinet.net • tourkonsult@yahoo.com • Website: www.thirdglobalcebu.com

Presented to you by:

SMART Simply Amazing!

PLDT

GMA KAPUSO FOUNDATION A GMA NETWORK SUBSIDIARY

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FILIPINO AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS NaFFAA

In cooperation with:

CEBU

JCI

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

MBC MANILA BROADCASTING COMPANY

NETWORKS

NBC

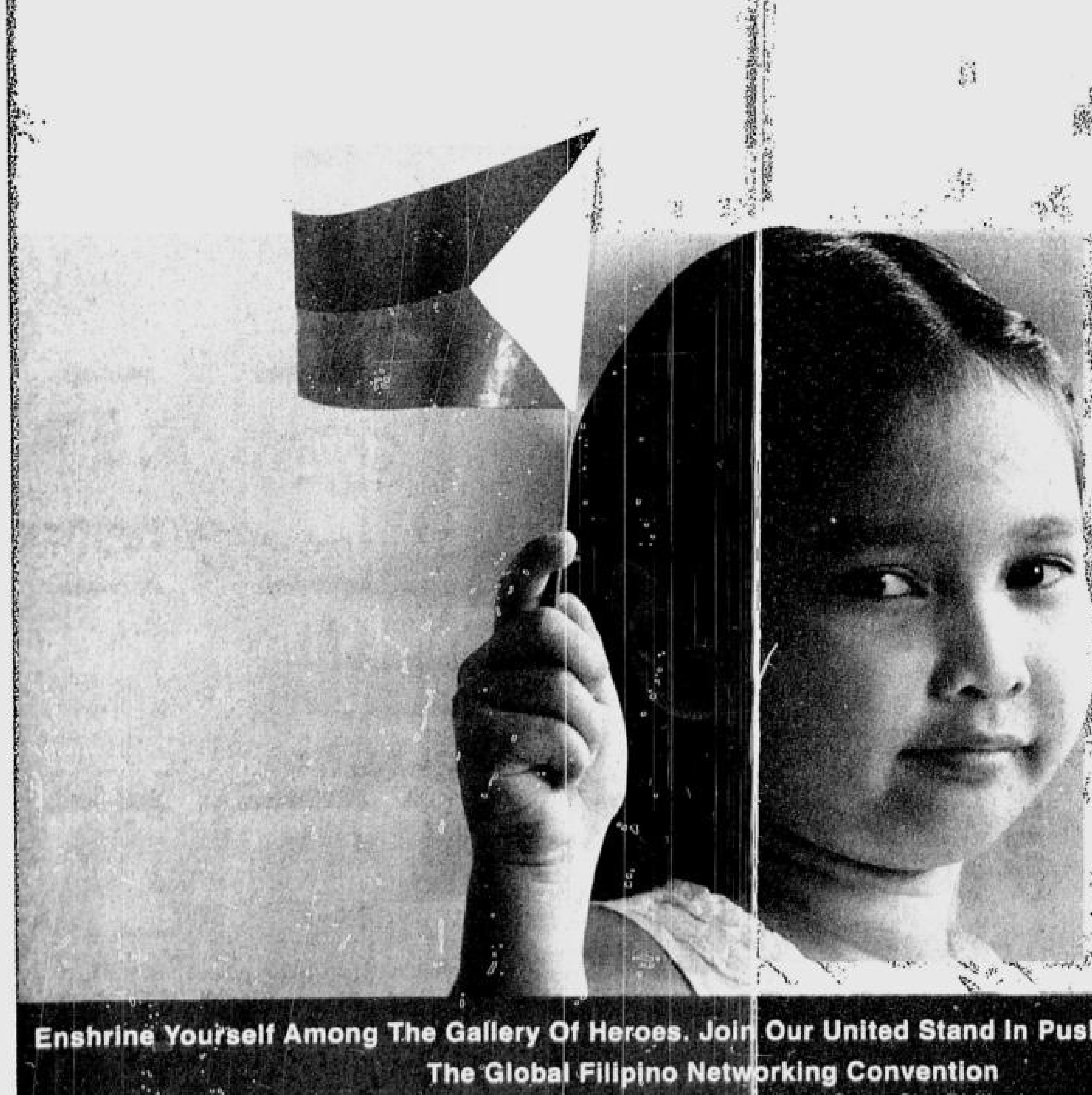
92.3 JOEY it's a groove thing!

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM PHILIPPINES

OFFICIAL SEAL CITY OF CEBU

DDB

"Reklamo ... Puro Reklamo, Pero, 'Tay, Ano Ba Ang Nagawa N'yo Para Sa Bayan?"



Enshrine Yourself Among The Gallery Of Heroes. Join Our United Stand In Pushing Our Country Forward.

The Global Filipino Networking Convention

January 20-22, 2005 • Waterfront Hotel, Cebu City Philippines

You can register 4 ways: By Phone: (63 32) 234-1282 • (63 32) 255-1230 • Fax: (63 32) 234-1463 • (63 32) 254-7850

Email: travelvision@skyinet.net • tourkonsult@yahoo.com • Website: www.thirdglobalcebu.com

Presented to you by:

SMART Simply Amazing!

PLDT

GMA KAPUSO FOUNDATION A GMA NETWORK SUBSIDIARY

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FILIPINO AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS NaFFAA

In cooperation with:

CEBU

JCI

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER BALANCED NEWS FEARLESS VIEWS

MBC MANILA BROADCASTING COMPANY

NETWORKS™

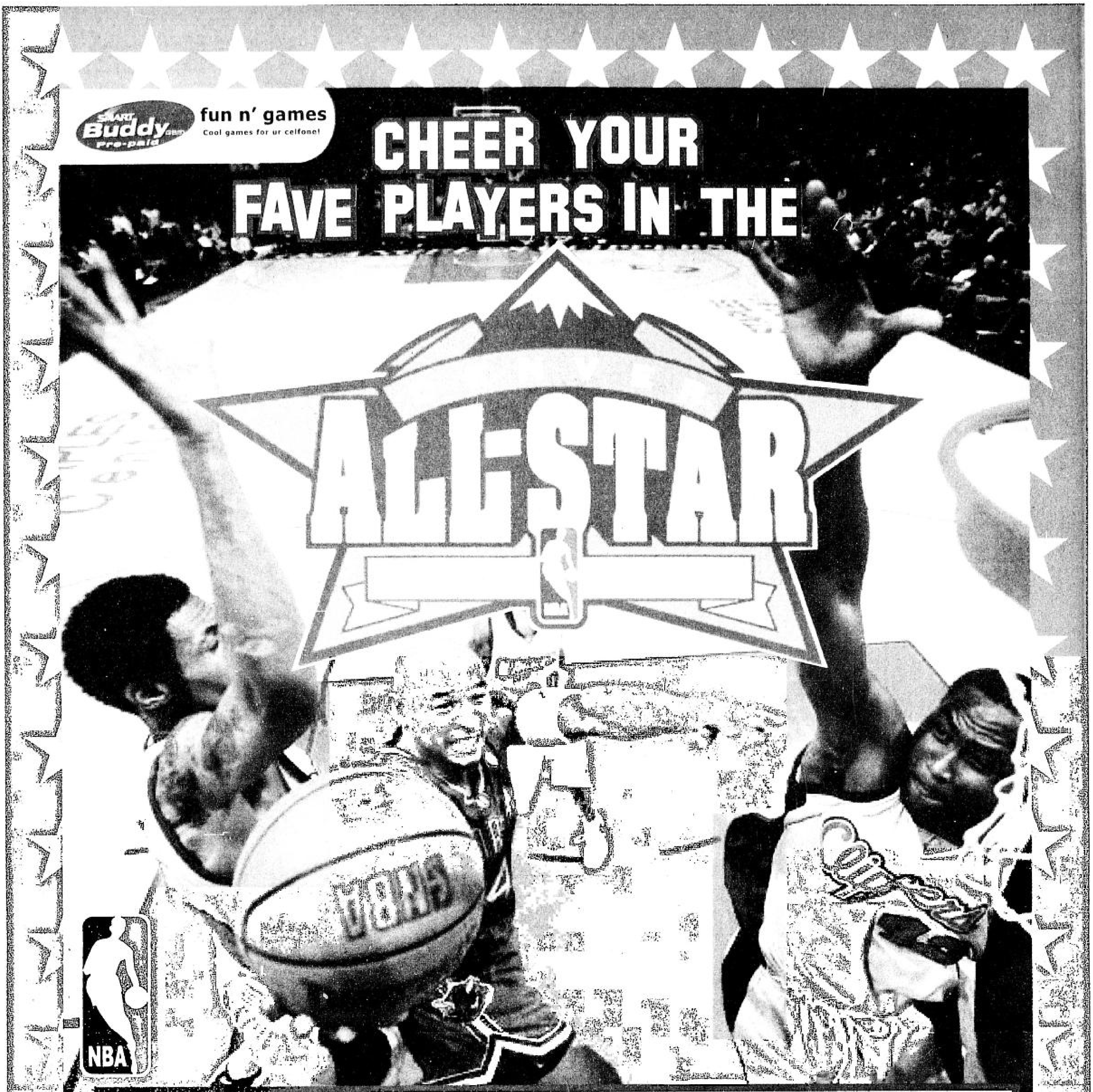
NBC

92.3 JOEY it's a groove thing!

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM PHILIPPINES

OFFICIAL SEAL CITY OF CEBU

DDB


SMART Buddy Pre-paid
fun n' games
Cool games for ur celfone!
CHEER YOUR
FAVE PLAYERS IN THE
ALL-STAR
NBA

Get a chance to win a trip for 2 to the
54th NBA All-Star Weekend in Denver, Colorado, USA!

Download these NBA stuff now!

To Register:

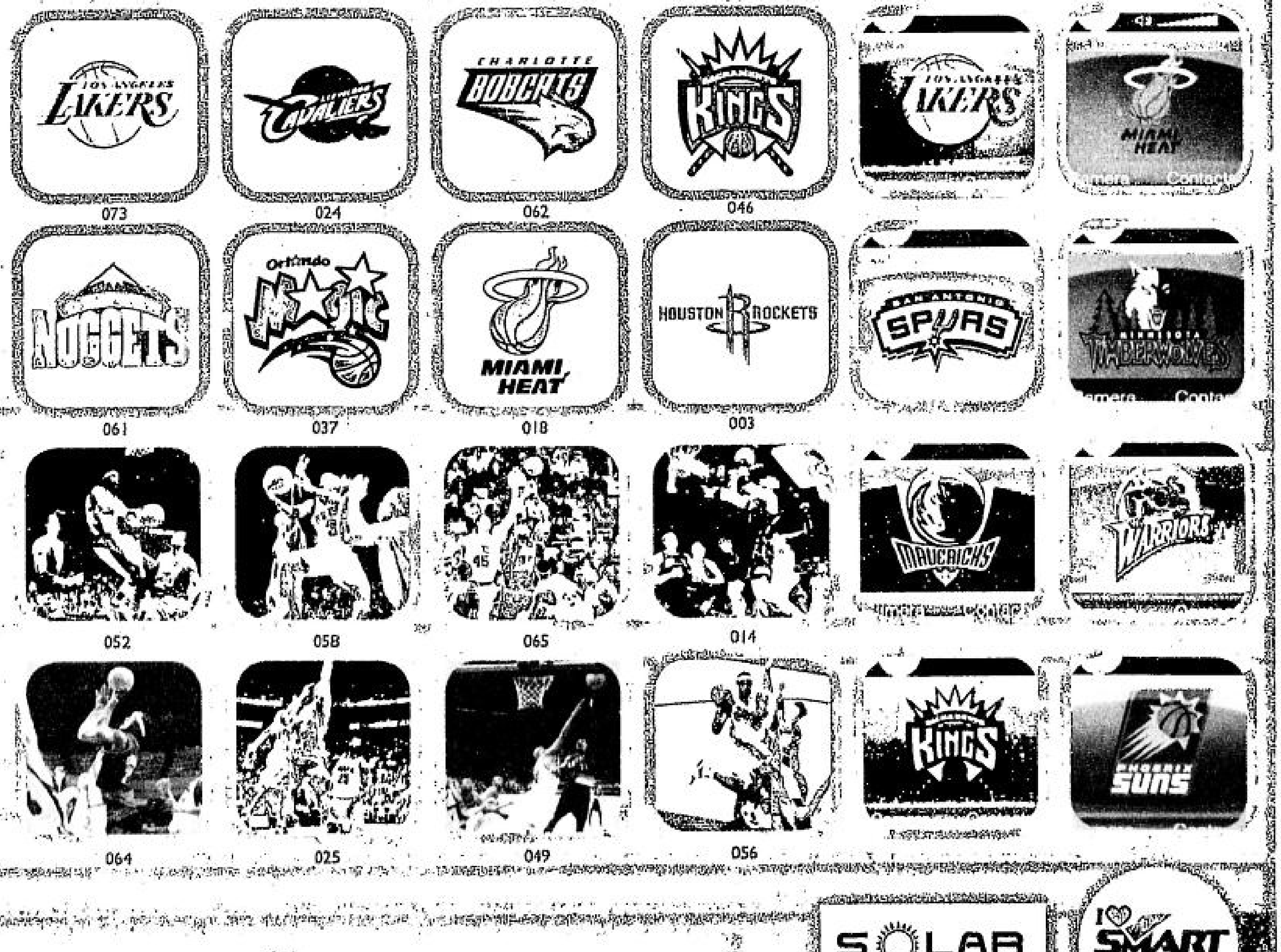
NBA REG Name/ Address/ Age **622**

To get keywords:

Send **NBA** **To** **622**

MMS Wallpapers
Send NBA PIC <code> to 622 (P15 per download)

Themes
P30 per download


073
024
062
046
061
037
018
003
052
058
065
014
064
025
049
056

Here's How to Play:

1. Open to all SMART subscribers 18 years or above (winners under 18 must be accompanied by an adult over the age of 21), with a valid passport and US Visa.
2. To join, subscribers must register, then download NBA-themed MMS content, or subscribe to an NBA SMS service. For every download, the subscriber earns a corresponding number of raffle entries.
3. Only 1 winner gets a trip for two to Denver, Colorado for the 2005 All-Star Weekend.
4. Consolation prizes consist of NBA merchandise or tickets to the 2005 All-Star Live Viewing Party on February 21 at the National Sports Grill.
5. All raffle entries are eligible for the Grand Prize.
6. Draw will be on February 10, 2005

1 NBA Theme = 10 raffle entries
1 MMS/logo/pic = 5 raffle entries
1 SMS Download = 1 raffle entry

To download via wap:

1. Log on to NBA SI wapsite at: http://wap.soalrinteractive.com/nba/home.php
2. Choose HANDSET THEMES.
3. Choose your desired category.
4. Choose your handset model.
5. Click on the themes you want installed in your handset.

*These services are open to all SMART subscribers
* Promo Period: Janaury 15 - February 9, 2005
* Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0077 series of 2005

SOLAR INTERACTIVE

I ♥ SMART
Simply Amazing!

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Louie C. Camino
Assistant Editor Emmie G. Velarde

ENTERTAINMENT

Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Red carpet, star-studded show, parties —my, oh my!

VIRGINIA MADSEN, star of "Sideways," on the famous red carpet. The INQUIRER was there, too

By Ruben V. Nepales
LA Correspondent
Photos by Janet Susan R. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—What a day it was.

On the red carpet leading to the Beverly Hilton at Sunday's Golden Globe awards, our first glimpse of a celebrity in the glorious sunshine was Joan Rivers, TV's harshest fashion critic at awards events.

Mentally, we gave her a thumbs down for walking with neither grace nor poise in her gown.

Second major celebrity to arrive was last year's Best Supporting Actress forerunner, Iranian actress Shohreh Agdashloo. Since she was not in the running this year, Agdashloo told INQUIRER Entertainment at our plum spot (Washington Post and Vogue were many spaces behind us!) that she was there just to have fun. She said she was rooting for "Kinsey's" Laura Linney, who eventually lost to Natalie Portman.

Andrew Lloyd Webber revealed to us that after the film adaptation of "Phantom of the Opera," he plans to bring "Sunset Boulevard" to the big screen next. Webber was coy about hiring Glenn Close to reprise her acclaimed onstage portrayal of a delusional and fading movie queen.

Only in LA

While all these interviews and crazy paparazzi action were going on, guests strolled by with champagne bottles ready to be quaffed in the afternoon heat, thanks to a glamorized version of a straw conveniently attached to each bubbly bottle. Only in LA!

Next came tuxedoed Ernst & Young accountants with metal cases bearing the winners' names. How long have they been handcuffed to the cases? "Too long!" chanted the two accountants. Indeed, only in LA can even number-crunchers get into the act.

We asked Brad Bird—voice of Edna, the snooty designer in the acclaimed Disney animated flick "The Incredibles," which he also directed—what Edna would think of the red carpet scene. In his Edna voice mode, Bird cooed: "I love it, darling!"

When asked about reports that he was set to visit the Philippines, "Phantom" hunk Gerald Butler told us, "I don't know about going to the Philippines but I am going to Bangkok." Last time we met Butler, he called us "a lucky bastard" after learning that we came from the Philippines. Was it because of our beautiful women? We never got to ask.

In the meantime, a large vat of Evian bottles that was being wheeled on the red carpet overturned, spilling ice and water all over. That posed a challenge to "Troy" star Diane Kruger, who was a vision of Helen in her navel-baring get-up by London's Marchesa, according to her.

Brillo babe

The fashion scene turned bizarre when a starlet showed up in a dress displaying the Brillo wax brand. A tribute to Andy Warhol, she said.

Robin Williams added flash to the scene with his black and silver boots. His wife, Filipino-American Marsha Garces Williams hid in shades even as Williams introduced her to us. He also introduced his daughter Zelda, an aspiring actress, and sons Zachary and Cody. Later, Williams was moist-eyed, for a change, as clips highlighting his career were shown before he was called onstage to receive the Cecil B. DeMille award.

"Sideways" actress Sandra Oh virtually ran to us when she saw the "Philippine" part of INQUIRER's ID on the red carpet. Why? She has made many Filipino friends from appearing in Jessica Hagedorn's "Dogeaters" play.

Raquel Welch, still va-va-voom after all these years, playfully caressed her breasts for the cameras. She said she hasn't tired of awards shows one bit. She also gamely showed off her bling-blings.

Glenn Close was a rarity—with no entourage or battalion of publicists around her. Told of Webber's movie plans for "Sunset Boulevard," Close was not coy about definitely wanting to be in that project.

TV star Julianna Margulies got our vote for best-dressed star in her white top and beaded black skirt.

The feast

Surviving the mad rush to the International Ballroom where the rites were to be held, we wolfed down a feast: salad of young romaine heart with herb-marinated

RED CARPET/A2-2

PLDT myDSL
Hi-Velocity Broadband Internet

Available at SM Malls
Megamall, North EDSA, Southmall, Centerpoint, Manila and Lucena

EXTENDED!
from January 12 until 31, 2005
Extended as per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3427, Series of 2004

BIG DISCOUNTS on HOT PCs with PLDT myDSL

FREE
- Installation
- Printer
- Save up to P11,000 on a Brand New PC
- Hurry only 200 PCs are available

PLDT myDSL Hi-Velocity Broadband Internet

Enjoy fast and reliable internet with a brand new PC. Get massive discounts of up to P11,000 on a fully loaded PC when you avail of any PLDT myDSL plan. What's more, you also get FREE installation on your PLDT myDSL and a Lexmark printer. Why wait? Visit the PLDT myDSL booth at PLDT Business Offices or designated areas in selected SM Malls.

PLDT myDSL Plan	Speed	Discounted PC Price	Discount/Savings
PLDT MyDSL Plan 1995	Up to 384 Kbps	Php 12,999	Php 7,001 or 35%
PLDT MyDSL Plan 2500	Up to 512 Kbps	Php 10,999	Php 9,001 or 45%
PLDT MyDSL Plan 3000	Up to 768 Kbps	Php 8,999	Php 11,001 or 55%

PC retail price is Php 20,000, inclusive of VAT
Free Printer promo will be applied under DTI NCR # 1877 series of 2004

Mechanics
1. Promo is available at the following SM Malls: Megamall, North EDSA, Southmall, Centerpoint, Manila and Lucena.
2. Promo period is EXTENDED from January 12 until 31, 2005.
3. A lock-in period of 24 months or two (2) years is required for PLDT myDSL.
4. PLDT myDSL applicant should have a PLDT residential landline service.
5. Should the applicant decide to terminate the service within the lock-in period, a three (3) month MSF depending on subscribed PLDT myDSL plan plus the discount/savings shall be charged.
6. PLDT myDSL applicant must present the following: Valid ID (i.e.driver's license, company ID, SSS or TIN); Proof of billing address (i.e. latest electric bill, water bill, credit card or cellphone bill); income document (i.e. pay slip, pass book etc); and pay initial fees.
7. Get the FREE printer when you purchase a Black and White ink cartridge (P950) or a Colored ink cartridge (P1200). The printer can be claimed at the PLDT Business Office.

SEE FLYERS FOR DETAILS

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3427, Series of 2004

PLDT

Red carpet, star-studded . . .

From page A2-1

vegetables, three grilled jumbo shrimps filled with American caviar in ponzu tomato basil vinaigrette; prime beef tenderloin with wild mushroom reggiano duxelles paired with white miso yuzu-marinated fillet of opakapaka (a fish) with shiitake seaweed tempura in sherry wine ginger mirin sauce; cream of potato in pastry cup, artichoke bottom filled with fresh spinach, candy-striped beets and asparagus spears; and dessert of chocolate Golden Globe dusted in leaf gold, filled with brandied cherry chocolate sponge cake garnished with blackberries and raspberries plus mango sauce and raspberry sauce topped with chocolate-pink fan.

Too bad we had only something like three seconds to finish off that sumptuous dinner by executive chef Suki Sugiura. Before we knew it, it was time to pick up our notebook again as the show began on time at 5 p.m. This was a party, all right, with the chatter of the guests often drowning out the remarks of the winners and presenters onstage. But what a parade of party-goers—Mick Jagger, Johnny Depp, Diane Sawyer, and was that California's Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger?

And was that Charlize Theron in a dramatic brunette bob?

Meryl Streep still thrilled us. As a presenter, she pretended to be a sore loser after Natalie Portman's win over her as Best Supporting Actress. Rolling her eyes, she used a droll voice to dryly congratulate Portman.

Booze away

Speaking of losers, many nominees whose names were not called to receive Globe statuettes trekked to the open bar (booze was overflowing and free) even as the show was in progress. This was not called Hollywood's party of the year for nothing.

Offstage, "Lord of the Rings" star Dominic Monaghan bear-hugged heartthrob Orlando Bloom when they passed each other by chance.

Leave it to Close to ride Streep's mock sore loser stance. When she won as Best Actress for a TV, movie or miniseries, Close pretended to gloat and asked Streep: "Is it okay, Meryl? Are we still friends?"

A waitress at our table uncorked another huge (1.5 liter size) Moet & Chandon champagne bottle before our group could finish the first. Since we were working and had to rush home to write two stories for INQUIRER, we merely sipped once. That was to celebrate old Mick Jagger's win with Dave Stewart for Best Original Song, "Old Habits Die Hard," from the "Alfie" soundtrack.

Jagger is Jagger but the audience went wildest when Prince came onstage—and it was just to present the clip of "Ray," in the running for Best Picture, Comedy of Musical.

Best Actor, Drama winner Jamie Foxx was telling the truth when he said he was "two drinks away from messing up" his acceptance speech.

Parties next

Then it was on to the parties. We were careful not to step on the gown of "Phantom" star Emmy Rossum at the InStyle and Warner Bros. Party, P. Diddy agreed to pose for a photo. Morgan Freeman and two ladies boogied on the dance floor to the music of a band. At

RED CARPET/ A2-4

SeeMall!

AYALA CINEMAS THX

Movies/schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729-7777

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4		GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
THX 1 MEET THE FOCKERS	1 WHITE NOISE	1 OCEAN'S 12	5 KUNG FU HUSTLE	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 MEET THE FOCKERS	1 WHITE NOISE
2 OCEAN'S 12	2 MEET THE FOCKERS	2 WHITE NOISE	6 MEET THE FOCKERS	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 MEET THE FOCKERS	2 KUNG FU HUSTLE
3 WHITE NOISE		GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 MEET THE FOCKERS	7 MADHOUSE	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 OCEAN'S 12	3 NED KELLY
4 KUNG FU HUSTLE	3 BLADE: TRINITY	4 BLADE: TRINITY		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 KUNG FU HUSTLE	4 OCEAN'S 12
5 MEET THE FOCKERS	4 KUNG FU HUSTLE	GB1 GREENBELT 1 1 WHITE NOISE 2 MEET THE FOCKERS		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 WHITE NOISE	5

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
WELCOME 2005 SALE January 14 to 31, 2005	WELCOME 2005 SALE January 14 to 31 2005	3 ANGELS BROADCASTING NETWORK-3 KINGS CONCERT: CELEBRATING THE GIFT-GIVER January 22, 2005

ENTERTAINMENT LIVE!

GREENBELT 2	GREENBELT 3
WELCOME 2005 SALE January 14 to 31, 2005	WELCOME 2005 SALE January 14 to 31, 2005

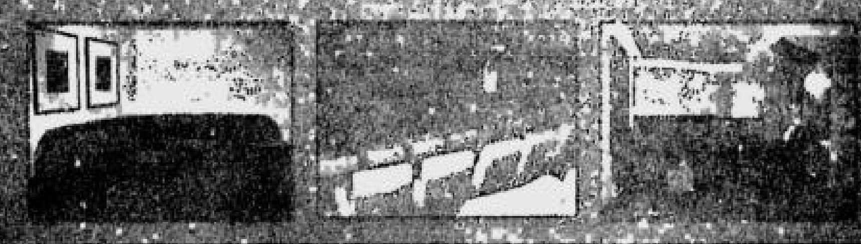
Onstage REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents OH ROMEO at REP's GLOBE THEATER - January 14 to 30, 2005

Ayala MUSEUM Visit the New Ayala Museum located beside Greenbelt 4 along Makati Avenue. For inquiries, please call 757-7117.

Imagine this.
Bringing your friends to an intimate gathering in a THX standard cinema with a sophisticated lounge area executed by the same interior design team of the posh Greenbelt 3 Residences.
You may call it

mycinema

Perfect for intimate parties, exclusive launches, corporate events and other types of private functions. Ayala Cinemas brings you the country's one and only private cinema. Now it can be yours.
For inquiries, please call 752 7862 or 757-3860 to 62.



LOOKS CAN KILL
JENNIFER GARNER
ELEKTRA
OPENS JANUARY 26 IN
AYALA CINEMAS
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
GLORIETTA 1 & 4
GREENBELT 1 & 3
AYALA CENTER CEBU
AYALA MALLS
LoveMall!
AYALA CINEMAS... Beyond Movies.

For movie screening schedules, call the Ayala Cinema Links:

729 7777

AYALA CINEMAS
AYALA MALLS LoveMall!

CUSTOMER SERVICE TEXT HOTLINE: 0917-6095900 • CUSTOMER SERVICE HOTLINE: Glorietta - 752-7272; from 10am to 8pm • Greenbelt - 757-4853; from 11am to 12mn • Alabang Town Center - 842-2782; from 10am to 8pm Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231-5342 loc 324 • AYALA CINEMA LINKS: For screening times call 729-7777.
Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart).
Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

AYALA CENTER ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU LoveMall!

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926

1	RESERVED
2	RESERVED
3 (DTS)	RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	OCEAN'S TWELVE
2 (DTS)	SO HAPPY TOGETHER
3 (DOLBY)	BLADE TRINITY
4	KUNG FU HUSTLE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	SO HAPPY TOGETHER
2 (DOLBY)	BLADE TRINITY
3 (DTS)	OCEAN'S TWELVE
4	KUNG FU HUSTLE

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	SO HAPPY TOGETHER
2	ENTENG KABISOTE
3 (DOLBY)	SPIRIT OF THE GLASS

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	KUN FU HUSTLE
2	SO HAPPY TOGETHER
3 (DTS)	OCEAN'S TWELVE
4	ENTENG KABISOTE
5	BLADE TRINITY

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	SO HAPPY TOGETHER
2	SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
3 (DTS)	ENTENG KABISOTE
4 (DOLBY)	BLADE TRINITY

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	ENTENG KABISOTE
2	SO HAPPY TOGETHER
3	OCEAN'S TWELVE
4	PANAGHOY SA SUBA

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	ENTENG KABISOTE
2	SO HAPPY TOGETHER
3 (DOLBY)	PANAGHOY SA SUBA
4 (DTS)	- SIGAW

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	KUNG FU HUSTLE
2	BLADE TRINITY
3 (DTS EX)	OCEAN'S TWELVE
4	SO HAPPY TOGETHER

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	HAPPY TOGETHER
2	BLADE TRINITY
3 (DOLBY)	KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 (DTS)	OCEAN'S TWELVE

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	AISHITE IMASU 1941
2	ENTENG KABISOTE
3 (DOLBY)	ALEXANDER
4 (DTS)	SPIRIT OF THE GLASS

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	SKY CAPTAIN
2	SHARK TALE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 7953320

1	KUN FU HUSTLE
2	SO HAPPY TOGETHER
3 (DOLBY)	ENTENG KABISOTE

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

• REGIONAL CINEMAS •

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0007

1 WHITE NOISE
2 BLADE TRINITY
3 OCEAN'S TWELVE
4 SALAT SA LIGAYA
5 KUNG FU HUSTLE

LIPA (043) 757 3654 (043) 312-5870

1 KUNG FU HUSTLE
2 THE SECRETARY
3 NED KELLY
4 BUKAS MAY UMAGA
5 HAROLD AND KUMAR

DASMARIÑAS (046) 892-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER
2 OCEAN'S TWELVE
3 SAPLOT
4 BIRTH
5 KUNG FU HUSTLE

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 WHITE NOISE
2 KUNG FU HUSTLE
3 BLADE TRINITY
4 OCEAN'S TWELVE

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 BLADE TRINITY
2 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON
3 BAD SANTA
4 OCEAN'S TWELVE
5 RAISE YOUR VOICE
6 KUNG FU HUSTLE

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 WHITE NOISE
2 KUNG FU HUSTLE
3 SAPLOT
4 OUT OF REACH
5 BLADE TRINITY
6 OCEAN'S TWELVE

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 BLADE TRINITY
2 OCEAN'S TWELVE
3 BIRTH
4 OUT OF REACH
5 THE SIN
6 HELLWOLF

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 BLADE TRINITY
2 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON
3 HAROLD AND KUMAR
4 NED KELLY
5 OCEAN'S TWELVE
6 BUKAS MAY UMAGA

MOVIE PASS
MOVIE PASS
MOVIE PASS

The Perfect Gift All Year Round

A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.

Get Special discounts for volume purchases!
For marketing and events/reservations please call:
Marketing Services Department at 687-7945 to 47 locals 14 and 15

Mark Mejia sings his heart out

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

SOME months back, we caught "Star Search" on the Star World channel and watched what looked like a rerun telecast that featured a really gifted Asian-American boy singing his heart out and impressing the tilt's celebrity judges no end.

Something about his look and bearing suggested to us that he was Filipino, but there was nothing said during his "junior singer" portion of the show that confirmed our speculation.

We didn't even get his family name, so all we knew was his first name—Mark—and that was a decidedly neutral advantage. Sure, he could have been Mark Borloloy, but he could also have been Mark Ling, Mark Sekiguchi or Mark Phratnabooloong—and where would that leave us?

So, we just made a mental note of the really great young singer and left it at that.

Then, some weeks ago, we caught Cito Beltran's "Straight Talk" and there the kid was, in all his pint-sized glory, and with his dad in tow, to boot.

And, this time, he had a full name: Mark Mejia.

So, the talented kid was Fil-Am, after all!

And more happy surprises were in store for us!

He had in fact won the "Star Search" tilt's "junior singer" championship, and was a busy young performer in the States.

Mark is now 12 years old, but looks years younger. So, his career as a "child" singing champ isn't in danger of ending anytime soon, thank goodness.

We applaud him for all of his success in the USA, but we hope that Mark and his father decide to give the Philippine show biz scene a try. Maybe the young singer can perform here on a more regular basis?

He's got what it takes to excite local audience: He's Pinoy-looking, young, pint-sized, has a great voice, knows how to "sell" a song, clearly enjoys performing, and is an interesting and sensible talker, too.

So, why not? At the very least, it would be a productive way for Mark to spend his time. And, at the other end of the colorful spectrum of possibilities, it could open up performing opportunities that Mark wouldn't get in the States.

Finally, we hope that a local recording company contracts Mark to cut an album real soon—before his voice changes!

'Superweapons'

From Jan. 24 to 26 at 10 p.m., the Discovery Channel telecasts "Superweapons of the Ancient World." Expert teams of engineers, architects, carpenters and blacksmiths are challenged by the production to recreate some of the world's original superweapons, and test them in action.

The war machines brought to life include "The Claw," a terrifying secret weapon created by Archimedes that plucked Roman warships from the sea and smashed them against the rocks.

The Roman "Ram," the kind of weapon that battered down the walls of cities like Masada in the Holy Land. And the "City Destroyer," one of the world's first catapults, created in the fourth century by the Greek King Dionysius.

'Anywhere But Home'

Evanescence's "Anywhere But Home," featuring the band's sold-out European tour, has been released by Sony as a two-disc DVD/CD. In addition to the live concert DVD directed by Hamish Hamilton, the package also includes a CD of the concert presented in a two-track mix, and the previously unreleased studio recording of "Missing."

The DVD features the band's four music videos ("Bring Me to Life," "Going Under," "My Immortal" and "Everybody's Fool"), an hour-long behind-the-scenes program, and some special surprises.

'Tunog Acoustic 3'

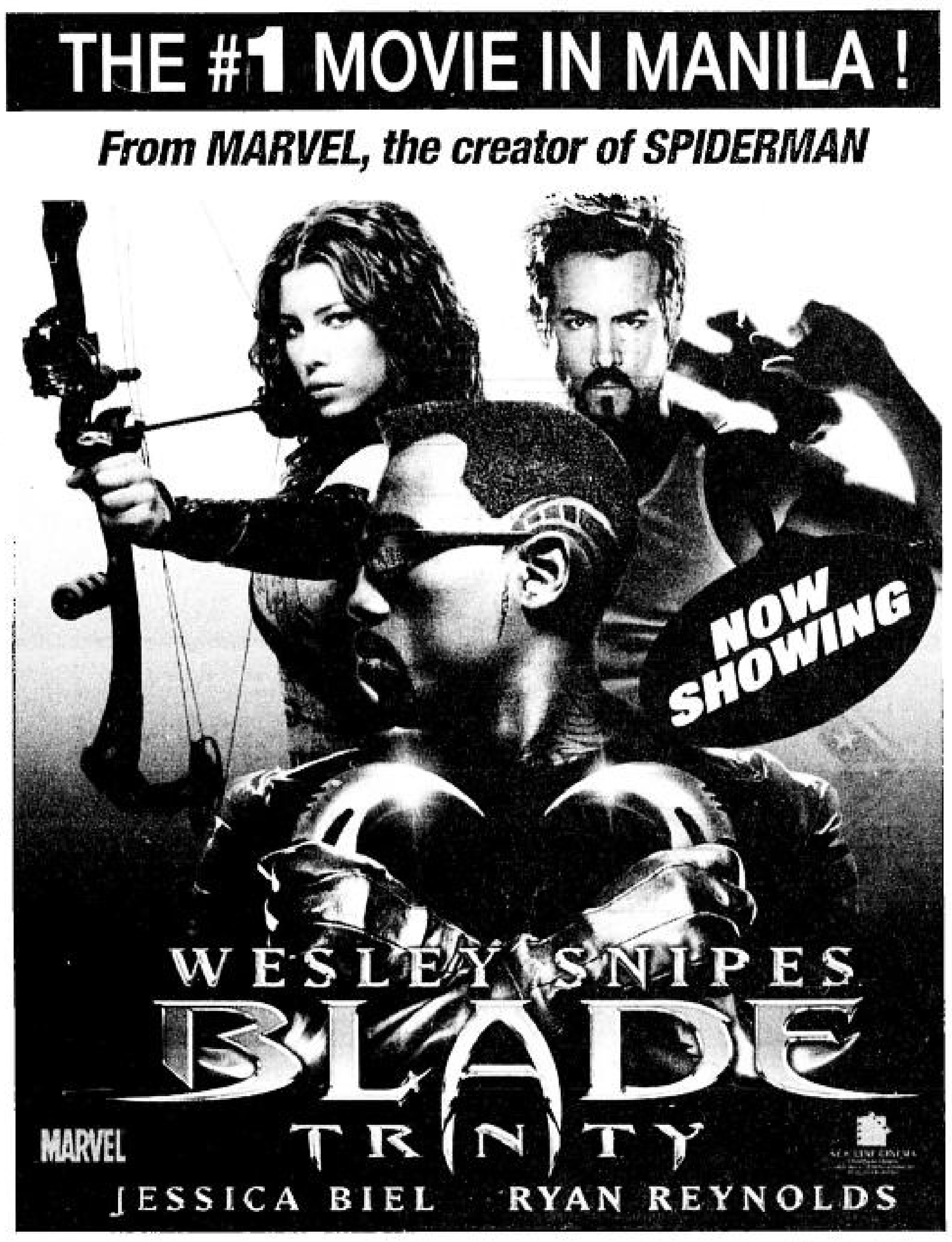
The third "Tunog Acoustic" compilation from Warner Music Philippines boasts of 14 tracks. They include Kitchie Nadal's "Wag na Wag Mong Sasabihin," Rivermaya's "Liwanag Sa Dilim," The Dawn's "Tulad ng Dati," Barbie's Cradle's "All I Need," Christian Bautista's "Hands to Heaven," Paolo Santos' "Close," Nina's "Sayang Naman," King's "Maybe," Artstrong's "Questions," 17:28's "Sukob Na," Passage's "You Won't See Me Crying," Viktoria's "Don't Go," Pido's "Promises Ain't Enough," and Side A's "Tell Me."

HK Arts Festival

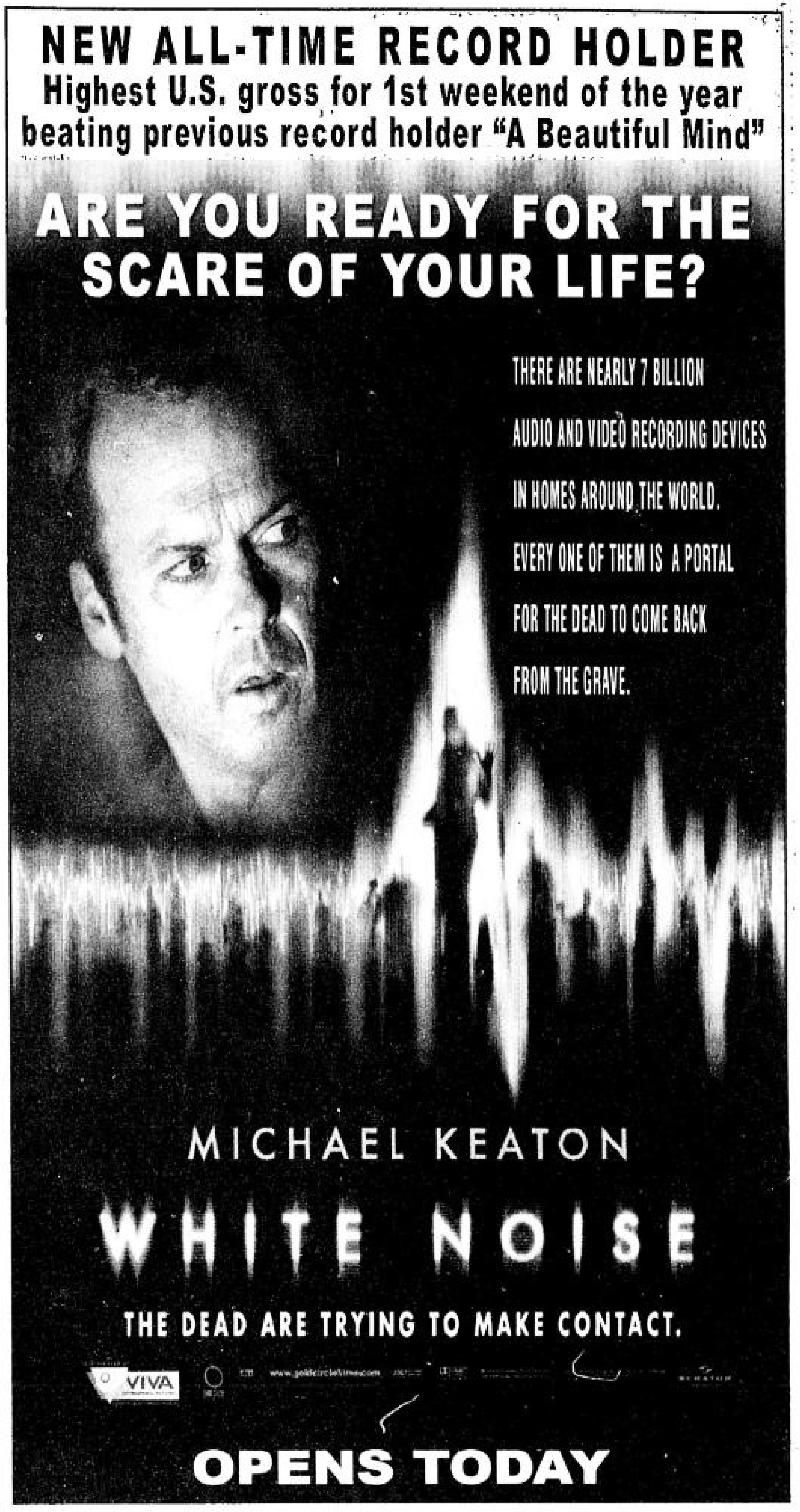
The 2005 Hong Kong Arts Festival unreels from Feb. 17 to March 20, and has for its theme the idea of "contrasting opposites"—the sacred and the profane, or the spiritual and the secular.

Festival highlights include the complete Beethoven Symphonic Cycle performed by the Orchestra of the 18th Century and the Gulbenkian Choir under Frans Biggen, 2nd performance by the Ballet Nacional de España, the National Theater Company of China, and theater and circus companies from France and Chile.

Walter Mart
MAKATI
CINEMA 2000
ALL DIGITAL CINEMAS
NOW OPEN!!

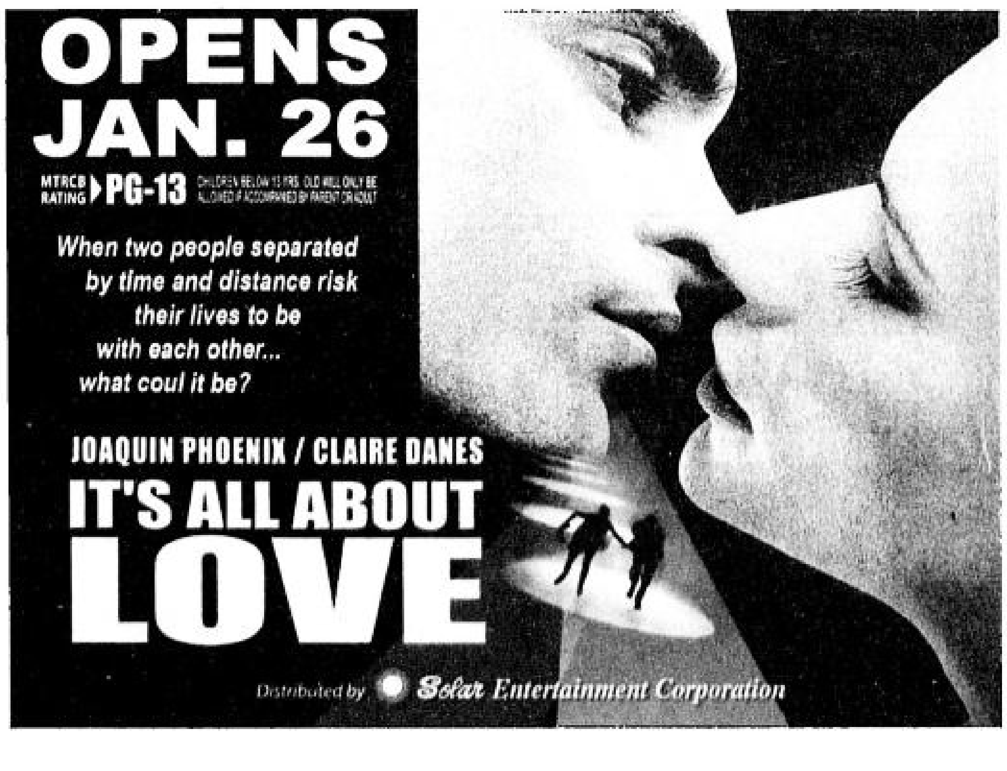


THE #1 MOVIE IN MANILA !
From MARVEL, the creator of SPIDERMAN
NOW SHOWING
WESLEY SNIPES
BLADE TRINITY
MARVEL
JESSICA BIEL RYAN REYNOLDS



NEW ALL-TIME RECORD HOLDER
Highest U.S. gross for 1st weekend of the year beating previous record holder "A Beautiful Mind"
ARE YOU READY FOR THE SCARE OF YOUR LIFE?
THERE ARE NEARLY 7 BILLION AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDING DEVICES IN HOMES AROUND THE WORLD. EVERY ONE OF THEM IS A PORTAL FOR THE DEAD TO COME BACK FROM THE GRAVE.
MICHAEL KEATON
WHITE NOISE
THE DEAD ARE TRYING TO MAKE CONTACT.
VIVA
www.goldcirclefilms.com
OPENS TODAY

Exclusive SCREENING
Robinsons Movieworld
METRO EAST
January 19
From Jean-Jacques Annaud, the highly acclaimed director of The Bear, comes a heartwarming story about the power of friendship and the bond between brothers.
SYNOPSIS:
Two mischievous twin tiger cubs live a carefree life in an exotic jungle amidst beautiful ancient ruins. But one day, an act of fate forces them apart, as one is sold off to the circus and the other becomes the pampered pet of a governor's son. Witness their remarkable journey as these tigers grow up, reunite and embark on an incredible adventure to find their way home.
CAST:
Guy Pearce, Jean-Claude Dreyfus, Oanh Nguyen, Philippine Leroy-Beaulieu, Moussa Maaskri, Vincent Scarito
MTRCB Rating: G
Solar Entertainment Corporation
A NEW FAMILY ADVENTURE FILM
from the award-winning director of "The Bear"
TWO BROTHERS
BROTHERHOOD KNOWS NO BOUNDS



OPENS JAN. 26
MTRCB RATING PG-13 CHILDREN BELOW 13 YRS. OLD WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED IF ACCOMPANIED BY PARENT OR ADULT
When two people separated by time and distance risk their lives to be with each other... what coul it be?
JOAQUIN PHOENIX / CLAIRE DANES
IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE
Distributed by Solar Entertainment Corporation

MTRCB RATING PG-13
OPENS TODAY
AMERICA'S NO. 1 FOR 4 CONSECUTIVE WEEKS!
$ 230,800,00 IN THE U.S. AND STILL COUNTING...
Robert De Niro Ben Stiller Dustin Hoffman Barbra Streisand Blythe Danner Teri Polo
Meet the Fockers
Misery loves family.
UNIVERSAL Solar Entertainment Corporation
www.meetthefockers.com © 2004 DREAMWORKS LLC AND UNIVERSAL STUDIOS
DREAMWORKS PICTURES

CATE Blanchett

NATALIE Portman

SANDRA Oh

ROBIN Williams

ANDIE MacDowell

MORGAN Freeman

Red carpet, star-studded

ACCOUNTANTS handcuffed to the precious results

TONY Shalhoub of "Monk"

WILLIAMS FAMILY. That's Robin's Filipino-American wife Masha Garces behind him

WILLIAM Shatner and date

From page A2-2

the Fox party, a trio provided jazz music at the Stardust, the penthouse ballroom where we attend meetings as an HFPA member. The top floor has been jazzed up; it was almost unrecognizable.

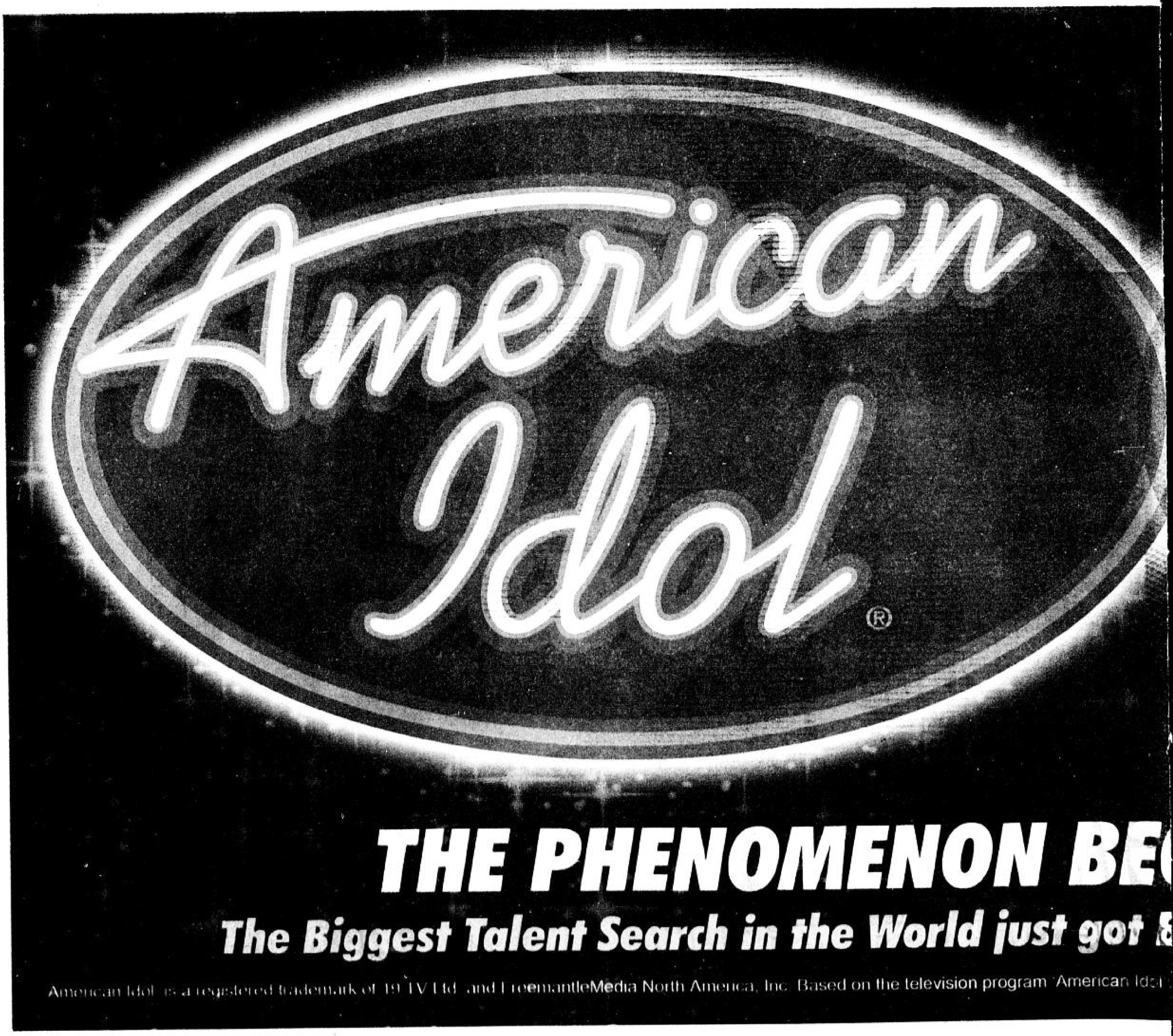
NBC and Universal's party place was rendered in velvet blue and white. It looked too funeral parlor-ish for us.

Fire marshals closed down the Miramax party due to overcrowding.

An HBO party in progress by the poolside was enticing, but we had a deadline to meet. So we exited but not before we picked up our goodie bags. The starlet in a Brillo dress was trying her best to claim that her goodie bag ticket got lost. Too bad, said the staff.

(Additional photos: Reuters)

WRITER-DIRECTOR Brad Bird of "The Incredibles"



American Idol®
THE PHENOMENON BE
The Biggest Talent Search in the World just got
American Idol is a registered trademark of 19 TV Ltd. and FremantleMedia North America, Inc. Based on the television program 'American Idol

GLENN Close

PAUL Giamatti

MARISKA Hargitay

JOSH Groban

THOMAS Haden Church

TIM Robbins

show, parties–my, oh my!

PORTIA De Rossi and Ellen DeGeneres

ORLANDO Bloom

HALLE Berry

RENEE Zellweger

CLINT Eastwood

FORMER Lakers player Rick Fox, who is now an actor, with a fan and Matt LeBlanc

TERI Polo and Blythe Danner

MORGAN Freeman at after-party

BASKET of goodies

on

ABC
Iba tayo

GINS 10 PM TONIGHT!
Bigger! Wednesdays & Thursdays after Big News
produced by FreemantleMedia North America, Inc. and 19 TV Ltd. Licensed by FreemantleMedia Licensing Worldwide. www.freemantlemedia.com

Overheard at the Globes

LOS ANGELES—Some of the most memorable quotes from onstage and backstage at the Golden Globe Awards:

LEONARDO DiCAPRIO on Howard Hughes, whom he portrayed in "The Aviator": "He was a man obsessed with everything he did in his life—whether it be women, airplanes, money, business, the man would not stop until he reached his own ideals of perfection, and when you play an obsessive character like that it's completely challenging and it's something you can't wait to do, so I've been waiting to do it for eight years." The actor referred to "Aviator" Director Martin Scorsese as "one of the greatest contributors to world cinema of our time."

JOHNNY DEPP, when asked if there's any role he's itching to play: "What comes into mind at the moment is, like, Mae West, although I probably wouldn't do it, you know. I'm a little too old for that role now. Maybe Carol Channing."

TERI HATCHER, winner for the TV series "Desperate Housewives": "All my friends and those agents that stuck around when I couldn't get an audition, I would be absolutely nowhere without all of you and you know who you are."

GEOFFREY RUSH, paying tribute to his voice coach: "If any of the actors are having difficult vowel movements, she's the person."

ROLFE KENT, nominee for "Sideways" original score, explaining why he wore a kilt: "It was the only thing I still had clean."

JAMIE FOXX, Best Actor winner, turning emotional when thanking his grandmother Estelle who helped raise him and who recently died: "I used to think it was corny when people would say people were looking down on you. And I didn't really, I didn't believe it. But I got a feeling." On winning itself: "I'm having the ride of my life. I wish I could take what I'm feeling right now and put it in the water system so that everybody could drink it. We'd all love each other a whole lot more, I'm telling you."

ROBIN WILLIAMS, Cecil B. DeMille Awardee, praising the Hollywood Foreign Correspondents for having a separate category for comedy, which often is overlooked in other Hollywood movie honors: "You allow us to be in the room with the adults." He also said: "I want to thank you for having Prince, William Shatner, Mick Jagger and Puff Daddy on the same stage. That is a sign of the apocalypse."

JASON BATEMAN, winner for "Arrested Development," on employment in Hollywood: "It's a pretty tough town and it's tenuous at best and if you do a good job and if it goes perfectly, you get fired at the end of it and you have to find another one."

ANJELICA HUSTON, picking up a trophy for the TV movie "Iron Jawed Angels."

PRINCE, to Jamie Foxx: "You didn't just portray Ray Charles. You were Ray Charles."

WILLIAM SHATNER, winner for "Boston Legal": "I really wanted to win. I'm ready to party." And on being sinister lawyer Denny Crane after decades of being typecast as space hero Capt. Kirk in "Star Trek": "It's all part of the fun of acting. Acting is like being in a sandbox and pretending, so this is part of the pretense."

HILARY SWANK, winner for "Million Dollar Baby," where she played a woman boxer: "I want to thank all the women in the movie who took those amazing knockouts to make me look such a champ." Turning to Clint Eastwood, her director: "I don't want to ruin your 'go ahead, make my day image,' but you have such a huge heart and you envelop all the people around you. ... You guided us so brilliantly, while you also, in my humble opinion, gave the performance of your career." And to co-star Morgan Freeman: "You are the definition of grace. You are seamless."

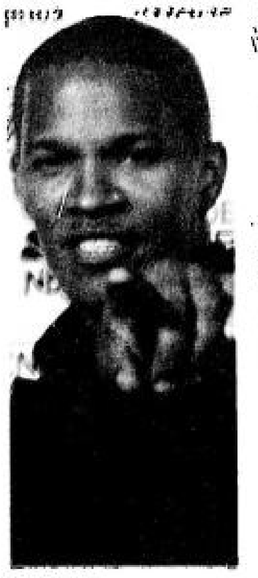
CLINT EASTWOOD, accepting his Best Director trophy: "I thought my evening had peaked with 'one of the best tuxes on the red carpet.'" He thanked "the great Hilary Swank," and "the world's greatest actor, Morgan Freeman."

MICK JAGGER, on behalf of fellow British rocker DAVE STEWART, after they won the Best Original Song award for "Old Habits Die Hard," from "Alfie": "We'd to thank all the children, but there's so many we're not even going to mention [one]." To his ex-Eurythmics fellow winner: "I'd like to thank Dave Stewart for getting me into this mess."

ANNETTE BENING, Best Actress, when asked backstage what her winning character in "Being Julia," a 1930s stage actress, would think of the award: "she doesn't think much of movie stars." On filmmakers being eager to present tales of older women: "I think there's no question that sexism exists, but I think that as long as people are willing to fight and create interesting stories that involve women of all different ages, then the movies will get made." *AP, AFP, Reuters*

JOHNNY Depp

TERI Hatcher


JAMIE Foxx

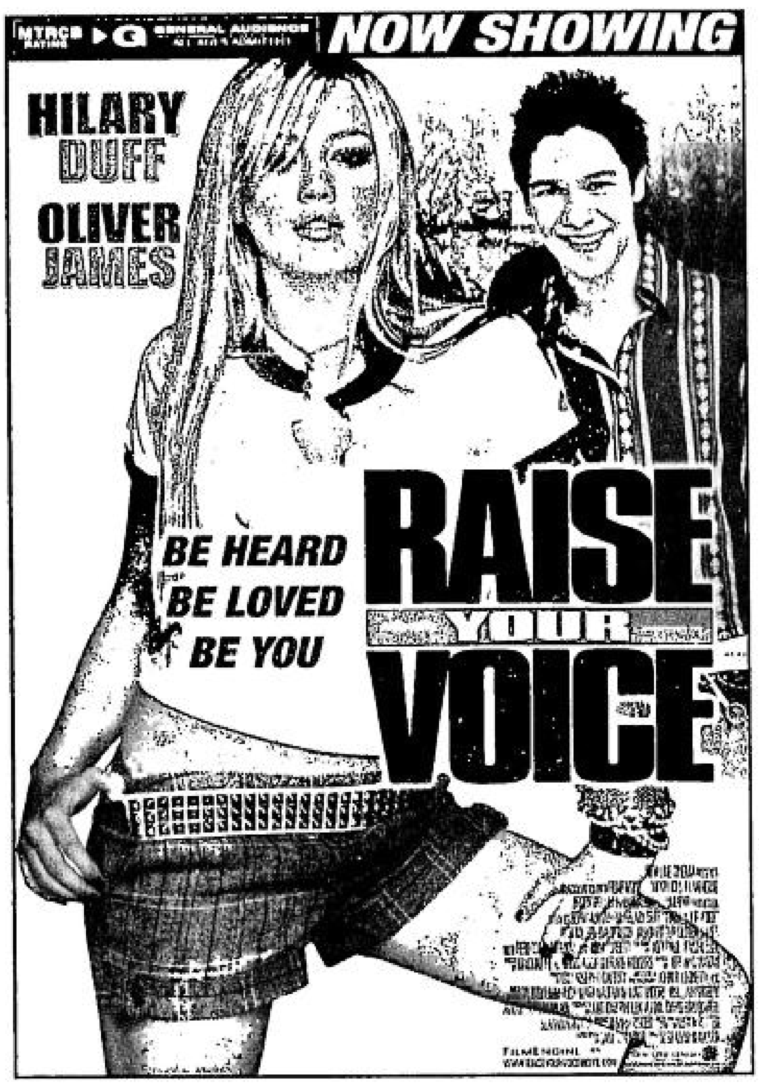
LEO DiCaprio

ANJELICA Huston

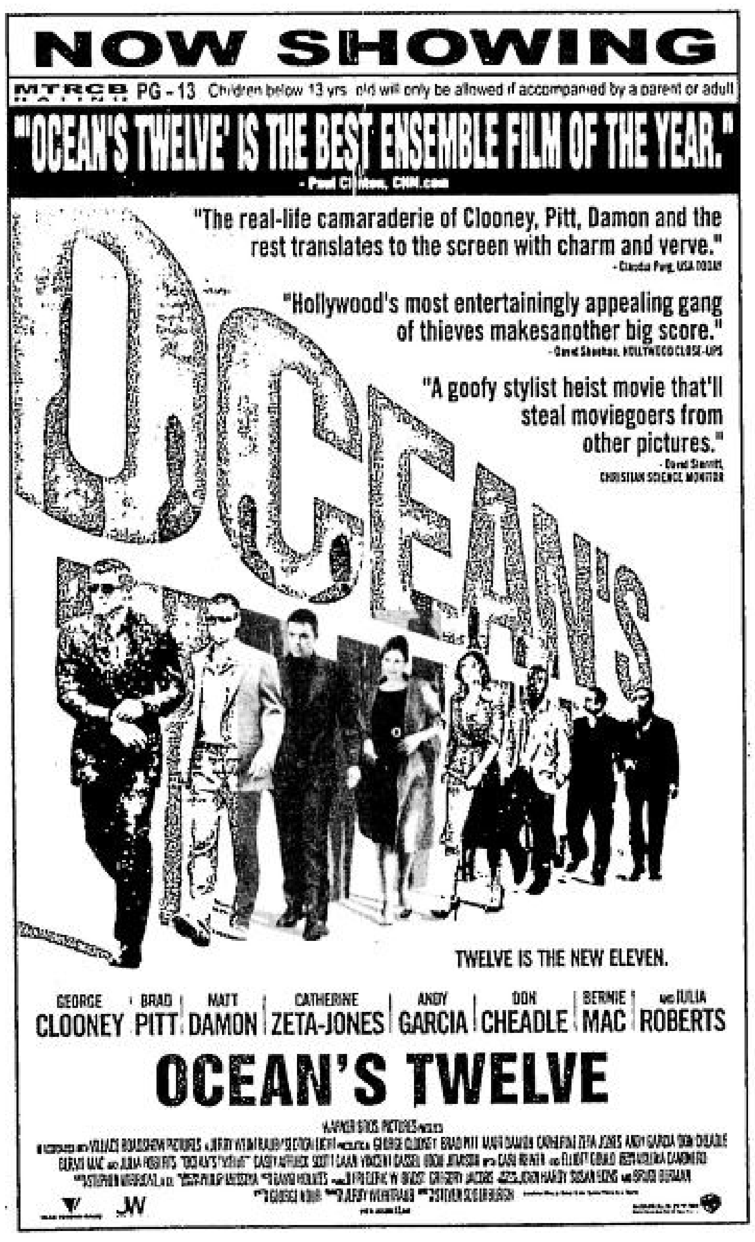
GEOFFREY Rush

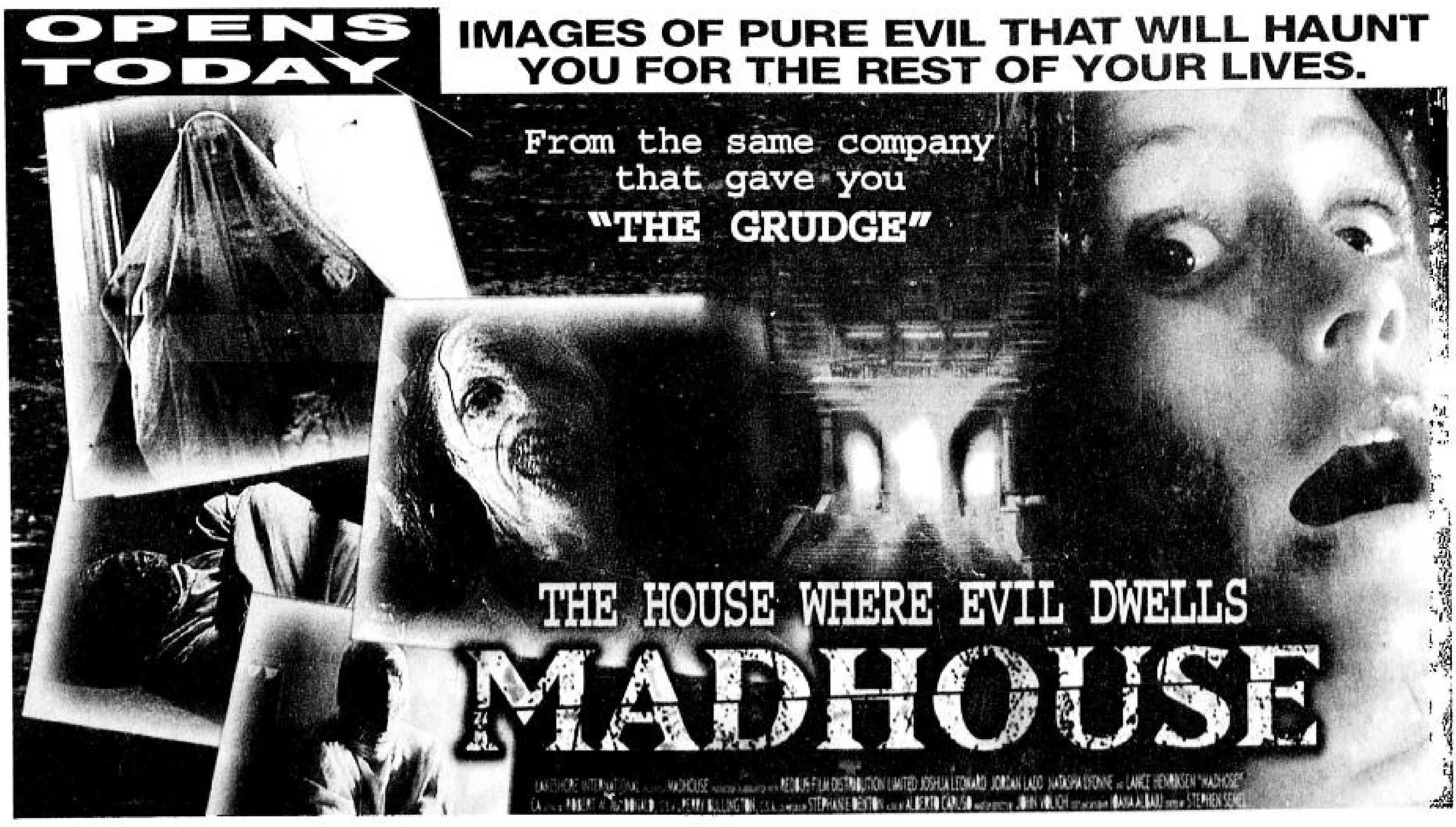
ROLFE Kent

PRINCE


MTRCB RATING G GENERAL AUDIENCE
NOW SHOWING
HILARY DUFF
OLIVER JAMES
BE HEARD
BE LOVED
BE YOU
RAISE YOUR VOICE

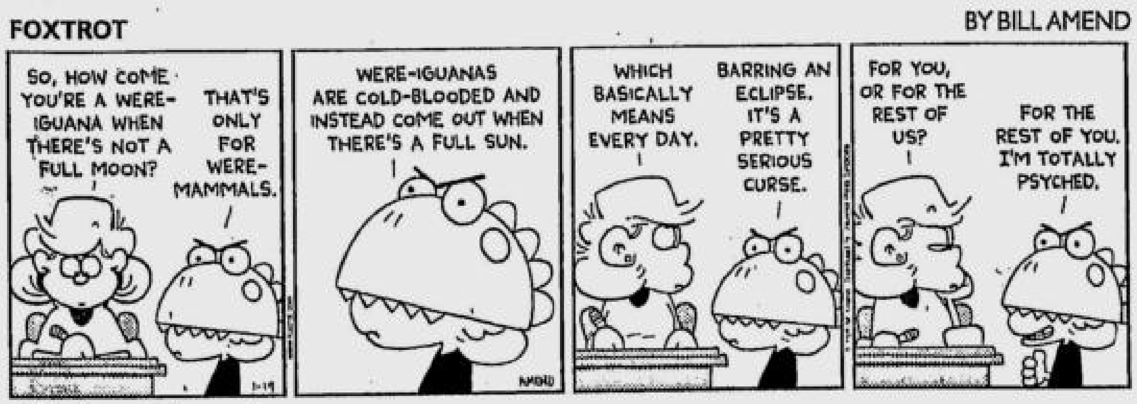
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
JENNIFER GARNER
BORN TO FIGHT.
TRAINED TO KILL.
ELEKTRA
MARVEL
FROM THE FORCES THAT BROUGHT YOU "X-MEN"
OPENS JANUARY 26


NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
"'OCEAN'S TWELVE' IS THE BEST ENSEMBLE FILM OF THE YEAR."
- Paul Clinton, CNN.com
"The real-life camaraderie of Clooney, Pitt, Damon and the rest translates to the screen with charm and verve."
- Claudia Puig, USA TODAY
"Hollywood's most entertainingly appealing gang of thieves makesanother big score."
- David Sheehan, HOLLYWOOD CLOSE-UPS
"A goofy stylist heist movie that'll steal moviegoers from other pictures."
- David Sterritt, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR
OCEAN'S
TWELVE IS THE NEW ELEVEN.
GEORGE CLOONEY
BRAD PITT
MATT DAMON
CATHERINE ZETA-JONES
ANDY GARCIA
DON CHEADLE
BERNIE MAC
and JULIA ROBERTS
OCEAN'S TWELVE
WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS


OPENS TODAY
IMAGES OF PURE EVIL THAT WILL HAUNT YOU FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIVES.
From the same company that gave you "THE GRUDGE"
THE HOUSE WHERE EVIL DWELLS
MADHOUSE

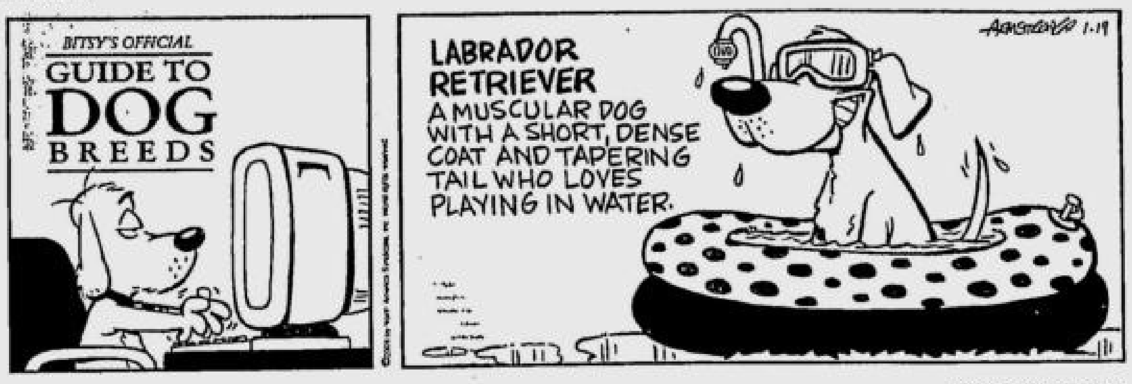
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


SO, HOW COME YOU'RE A WERE-IGUANA WHEN THERE'S NOT A FULL MOON?
THAT'S ONLY FOR WERE-MAMMALS.
WERE-IGUANAS ARE COLD-BLOODED AND INSTEAD COME OUT WHEN THERE'S A FULL SUN.
WHICH BASICALLY MEANS EVERY DAY.
BARRING AN ECLIPSE. IT'S A PRETTY SERIOUS CURSE.
FOR YOU, OR FOR THE REST OF US?
FOR THE REST OF YOU. I'M TOTALLY PSYCHED.
1-19
AMEND

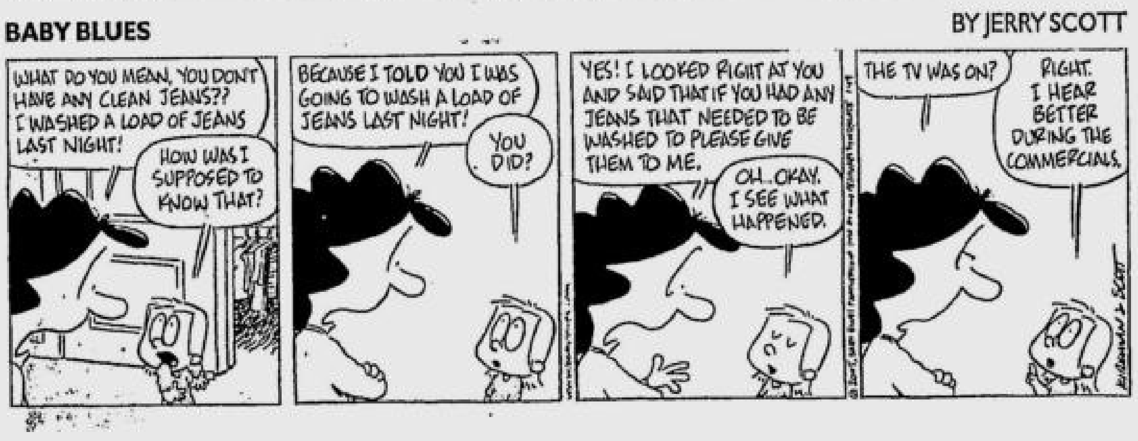
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


BITSY'S OFFICIAL GUIDE TO DOG BREEDS
LABRADOR RETRIEVER
A MUSCULAR DOG WITH A SHORT, DENSE COAT AND TAPERING TAIL WHO LOVES PLAYING IN WATER.
ARMSTRONG 1-19

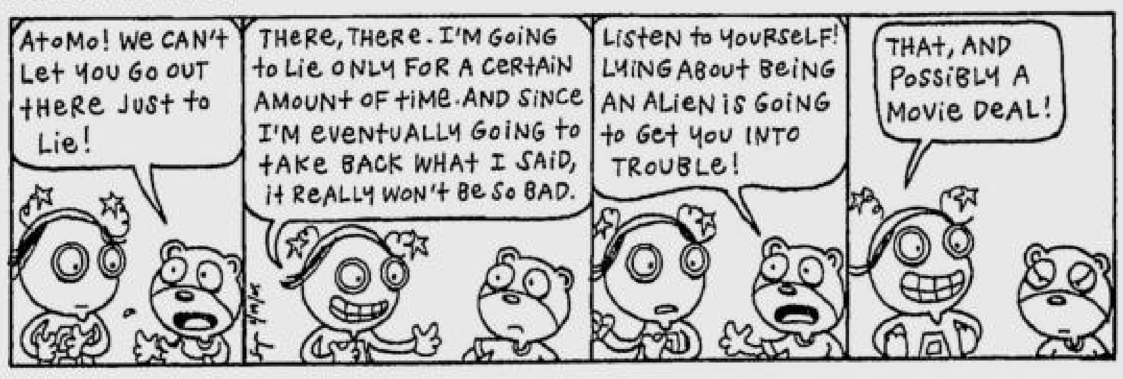
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU DON'T HAVE ANY CLEAN JEANS?? I WASHED A LOAD OF JEANS LAST NIGHT!
HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW THAT?
BECAUSE I TOLD YOU I WAS GOING TO WASH A LOAD OF JEANS LAST NIGHT!
YOU DID?
YES! I LOOKED RIGHT AT YOU AND SAID THAT IF YOU HAD ANY JEANS THAT NEEDED TO BE WASHED TO PLEASE GIVE THEM TO ME.
OH...OKAY. I SEE WHAT HAPPENED.
THE TV WAS ON?
RIGHT. I HEAR BETTER DURING THE COMMERCIALS.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


AtoMo! We CAN't Let you Go out there Just to Lie!
There, There. I'M GoiNG to Lie ONLY FoR A CertAiN AMouNt of tiMe. AND SiNce I'M eventuALLY GoiNG to tAke BACK WHAt I SAiD, it ReALLY WON't Be So BAD.
Listen to yourself! LyiNG About BeiNG AN ALieN is GoiNG to Get you INTO TRouBLe!
THAt, AND PossiBLY A Movie DeAL!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are extremely creative. Your energy is vibrant, electrical and contagious. You often push things to the limit. Your candle burns bright; your life is not boring! People are energized in your presence. (This often amazes you.) In the year ahead, you will wrap up certain major cycles in your life.
Birthdate of: Dolly Parton, singer/actress; Janis Joplin, singer/songwriter; Phil Everly, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This year you will improve your closest relationships in a lovely way. Look forward to happier one-on-one associations with others. Marriage is favored as well.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Be on the lookout for every opportunity to improve your job. That's because your job will improve this year—it's important to know this.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your love life can get quite exciting. If not, then vacations, social occasions and playful times with others will delight you. Either way, it's Fun City for you this year!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Take advantage of every opportunity to improve your real estate situation this year. Everything having to do with home, family and your private life will become warmer and happier!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Have you noticed that your frame of mind is more positive lately? This will happen even if nothing much different takes place in your life. (Go figure.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): It's about time! It's your turn to earn more money now. (Of course, you're going to be spending more as well.) But that's what's in the cards for you this year.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is an extremely fortunate year for you, because Jupiter is in your sign. The last time it was in your sign was 12 years ago. Enjoy your good luck!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Many of you are getting in touch with your inner world at a more subtle level. Others are becoming more spiritual. It's nice to be soft and forgiving with yourself.

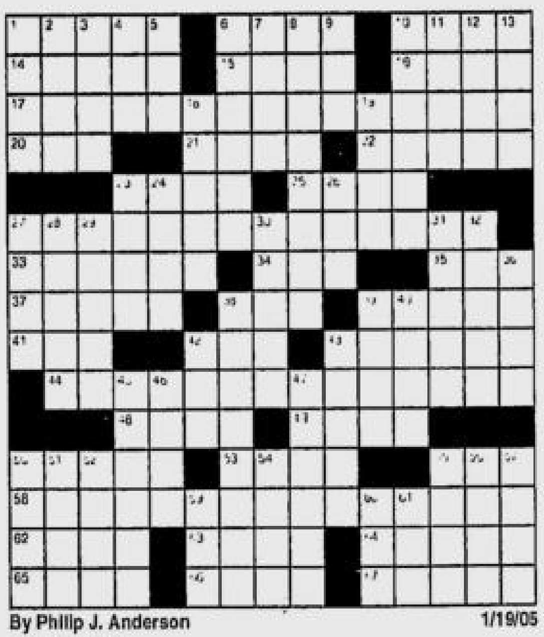
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Your popularity will increase this year for different reasons. One thing is certain: Everyone wants to see your face! Just enjoy it, and accept all invitations that come your way.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Wonderful career opportunities favor you now. Important people, bosses, VIPs and teachers respect what you have to offer. (Milk this for all it's worth!)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Your good luck this year is related to publishing, travel, the law, the media, education and medicine. These are the areas where you will shine!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You'll be surprised at how many gifts and advantages will come your way this year. It's as if the universe owes you a favor. It's your turn to collect! If nothing else, your partner will earn more this year.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
1/19/05

ACROSS
1 Scalawag
6 Speak like Sylvester
10 Outdo
14 Cubs great Banks
15 Pismires
16 Exchange premium
17 Best Director and his '64 film
20 Assam or hyson
21 Egyptian fertility god
22 Yellow-fever mosquito
23 Hindu music
25 Calamitous
27 Best Director and his '97 film
33 Cold pack
34 Numero __
35 Vietnam Memorial designer Maya
37 Khartoum's country
38 __ gratia artis
39 BYU location
41 Refrain opening
42 Kimono sash
43 Frosh cap
44 Best Director and his '77 film
48 Press
49 Sorry 'bout that!
50 Suspect story
53 Soil
55 Spanish gold
58 Best Director and his '88 film
62 Hoover Dam's lake
63 Con
64 Greek column
65 River of Pisa
66 Medical suffix
67 Old womanish

DOWN
1 Faction
2 Motley __
3 "Diana" singer
4 "O solo __"
5 According to
6 Non-priest
7 Lowdown
8 Substitutes
9 Tire gauge abbr.
10 Whalebone
11 Old-time oath
12 Aspect
13 Santa's sackful
18 One of Satan's nations
19 __ avis
23 Country diva McEntire
24 Islands off Ireland
26 O.J. trial judge
27 Prehistoric tomb
28 Legend car maker
29 Olympian's award
30 City on the Po
31 Actress Massey
32 Courteous
36 Christmas song
38 Deserts
39 Furtive glance
40 Bleacher cries
42 Lennon's Yoko
43 Flora and fauna of a region
45 Sex drive
46 Moran or Gray
47 Actor Chuck
50 __ mater
51 Lecherous look
52 Lendl of tennis
54 Old Peruvian currency
55 Katz of "Hocus Pocus"
56 Sora of Virginia
57 A single time
59 __ Paulo
60 Actress Lupino
61 Sine qua __

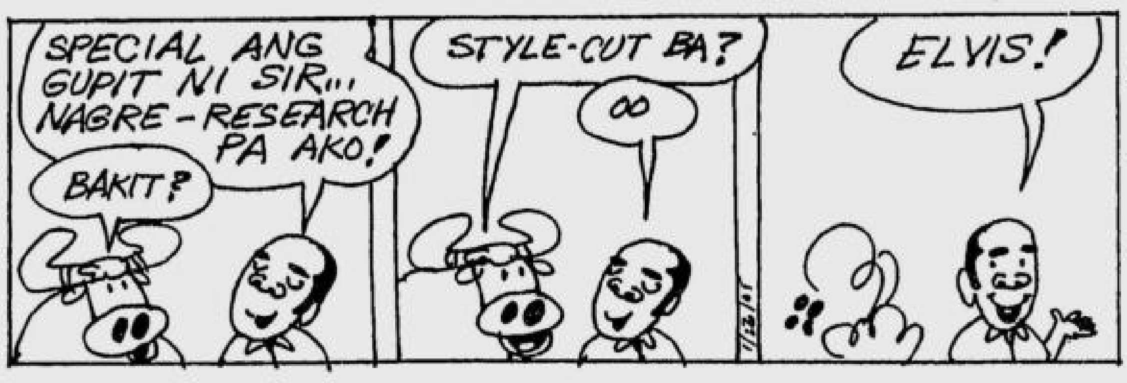
Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

R	E	B	U	T	■	F	A	O	■	P	R	I	N	T
A	L	E	R	O	■	R	M	N	■	L	A	S	E	R
P	S	A	L	M	B	O	O	K	■	U	N	S	A	Y
T	E	K	■	B	U	G	■	P	O	N	D	E	R	S
■	■	■	T	O	M	S	K	■	E	G	O	I	S	T
Z	E	P	H	Y	R	■	E	F	R	E	M	■	■	■
A	R	I	E	■	A	V	E	R	■	D	H	A	K	A
P	I	L	L	■	P	I	P	E	S	■	O	R	A	L
S	K	E	A	N	■	V	E	T	O	■	U	C	L	A
■	■	■	S	O	N	A	R	■	L	A	S	H	E	S
S	P	O	T	T	Y	■	S	I	D	L	E	■	■	■
T	A	C	T	I	C	S	■	S	E	A	■	F	I	B
A	T	T	I	C	■	F	O	U	R	S	C	O	R	E
T	H	E	M	E	■	P	A	Z	■	K	A	R	M	A
E	S	T	E	S	■	D	R	U	■	A	D	M	A	N

(C)2005 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved.
1/18/05

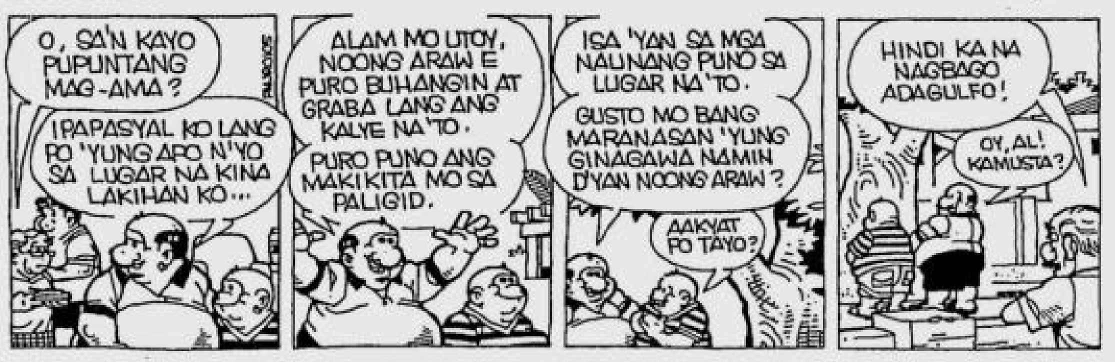
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


SPECIAL ANG GUPIT NI SIR... NAGRE-RESEARCH PA AKO!
BAKIT?
STYLE-CUT BA?
OO
ELVIS!

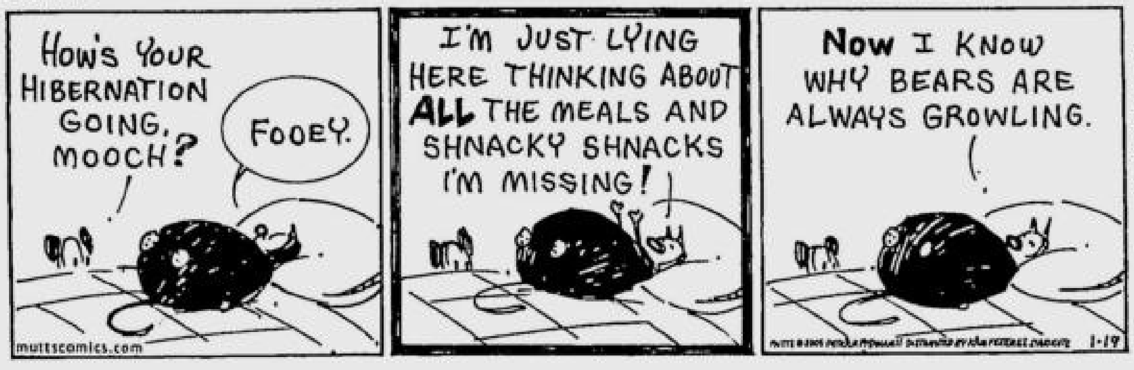
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


O, SA'N KAYO PUPUNTANG MAG-AMA?
IPAPASYAL KO LANG PO 'YUNG APO N'YO SA LUGAR NA KINALAKIHAN KO...
ALAM MO UTOY, NOONG ARAW E PURO BUHANGIN AT GRABA LANG ANG KALYE NA'TO.
PURO PUNO ANG MAKIKITA MO SA PALIGID.
ISA 'YAN SA MGA NAUNANG PUNO SA LUGAR NA'TO.
GUSTO MO BANG MARANASAN 'YUNG GINAGAWA NAMIN D'YAN NOONG ARAW?
AAKYAT PO TAYO?
HINDI KA NA NAGBAGO ADAGULFO!
OY, AL! KAMUSTA?

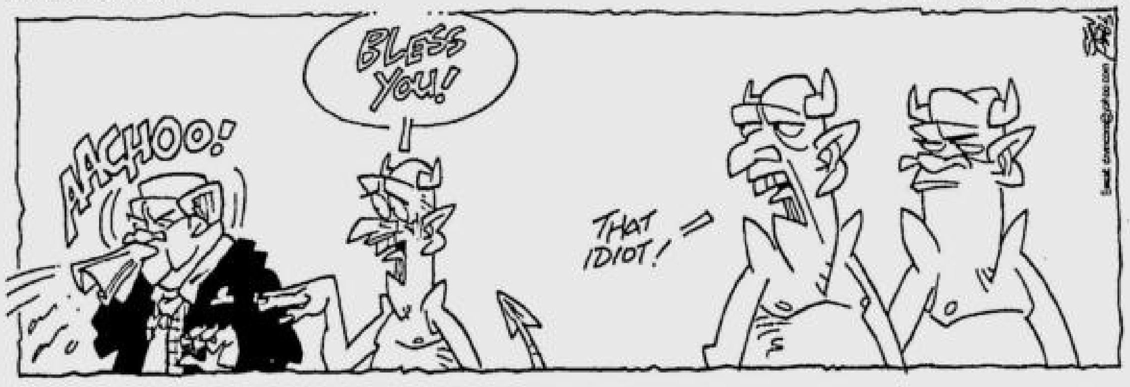
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HOW'S YOUR HIBERNATION GOING, MOOCH?
FOOEY.
I'M JUST LYING HERE THINKING ABOUT ALL THE MEALS AND SHNACKY SHNACKS I'M MISSING!
NOW I KNOW WHY BEARS ARE ALWAYS GROWLING.
muttscomics.com
1-19

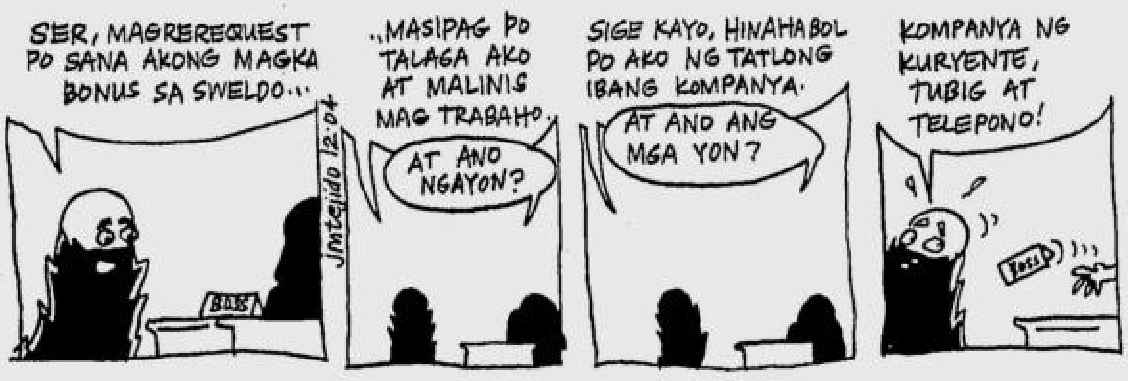
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


AACHOO!
BLESS YOU!
THAT IDIOT!

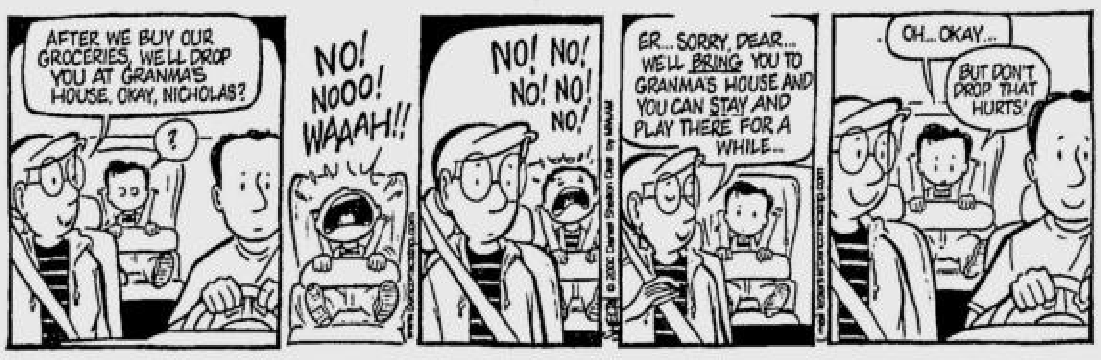
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


SER, MAGREREQUEST PO SANA AKONG MAGKA BONUS SA SWELDO...
..MASIPAG PO TALAGA AKO AT MALINIS MAG TRABAHO.
AT ANO NGAYON?
SIGE KAYO, HINAHABOL PO AKO NG TATLONG IBANG KOMPANYA.
AT ANO ANG MGA YON?
KOMPANYA NG KURYENTE, TUBIG AT TELEPONO!
BOSS
Jmtejido 12.04

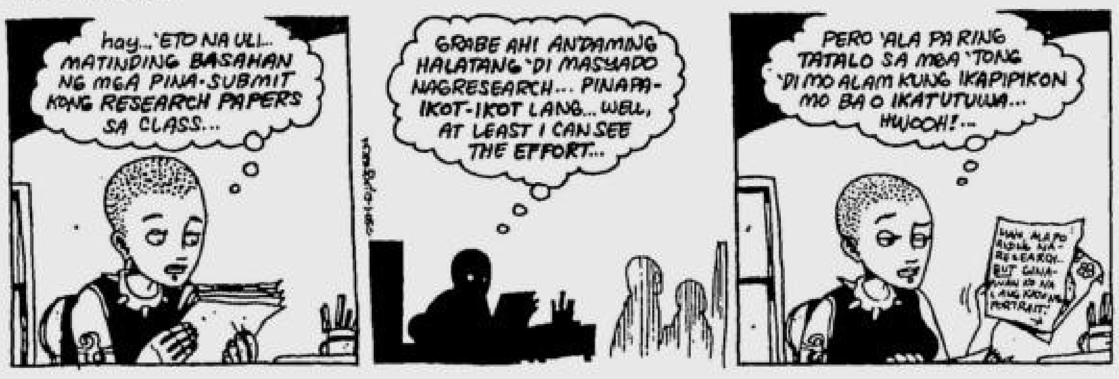
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


AFTER WE BUY OUR GROCERIES, WE'LL DROP YOU AT GRANMA'S HOUSE. OKAY, NICHOLAS?
?
NO! NOOO! WAAAH!!
NO! NO! NO! NO! NO!
ER... SORRY, DEAR... WE'LL BRING YOU TO GRANMA'S HOUSE AND YOU CAN STAY AND PLAY THERE FOR A WHILE...
OH... OKAY...
BUT DON'T DROP THAT HURTS!

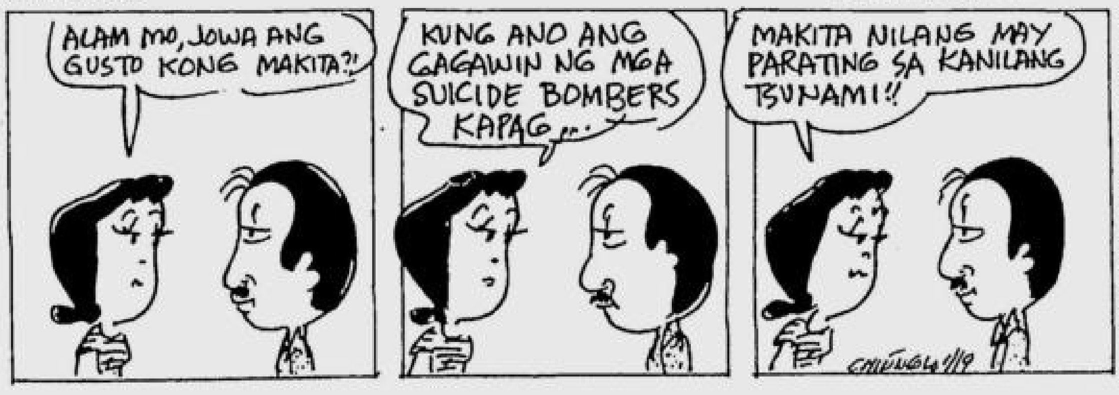
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


hay...'ETO NA ULI... MATINDING BASAHAN NG MGA PINA-SUBMIT KONG RESEARCH PAPERS SA CLASS...
GRABE AH! ANDAMING HALATANG 'DI MASYADO NAGRESEARCH... PINAPA-IKOT-IKOT LANG... WELL, AT LEAST I CAN SEE THE EFFORT...
PERO 'ALA PA RING TATALO SA MGA 'TONG 'DI MO ALAM KUNG IKAPIPIKON MO BA O IKATUTUWA... HWOOH!...

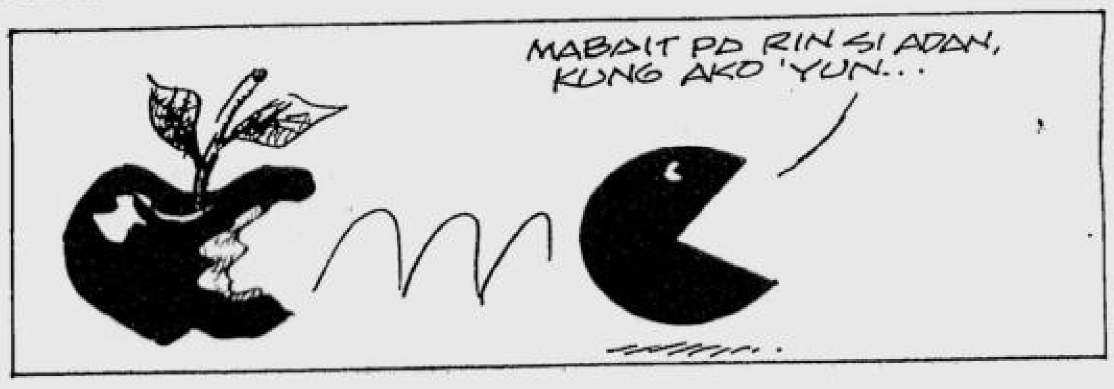
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ALAM MO, JOWA ANG GUSTO KONG MAKITA?!
KUNG ANO ANG GAGAWIN NG MGA SUICIDE BOMBERS KAPAG...
MAKITA NILANG MAY PARATING SA KANILANG TSUNAMI!!
CHIONGLO 1/19

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


MABAIT PO RIN SI ADAN, KUNG AKO 'YUN...

mobilephilippines mph www.m-ph.com MAGAZINE

BUHAY WIRELESS TOUR | '04-'05

Cellphones • Digital Cameras • Laptops • PDAs • Music Players

The country's first and only mobile device and technology road show over 8 months in 16 venues nationwide.

Complete your mobile technology lifestyle and get a chance to win cool prizes including an HP iPAQ RX1710.
Visit the Buhay Wireless Café nearest you.

January 19 - 21
De La Salle - College of St. Benilde

Be hip this New Year
with the latest mobile gadgets.

Panasonic ideas for life · Seagate · ASTONE · WD Western Digital · MSI · LITE-ON · hp · ARCHOS · airborneaccess · SONY · mph · feed your mind · INQUIRER · MANILA BULLETIN · www.yehey.com

WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY 10 pm after Big News

American Idol
Watch it with America!
ABC

ClickTheCity.com
For more TV schedules [illegible]

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Wednesday, January 19, 2005

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2				Showbiz No. 1	Sandara's Romance	Get Backers	Ragnarok	Masked Rider Ryuki	TV Patrol	Spirits	Krystala	Lovers In Paris	Hiram	Star Circle Nat'l Teen Quest	Yes Yes Show			Insider	Special Assignment
NBN	Value Vision	Value Vision		Value Vision	Teledyaryo	Value Vision		Talk Ko 'To		Linya		Teledyaryo		World Pool Master				Paco Park Presents	
ABC 5			Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	PBA Game-Bol	PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	Look Who's Talking		Phil Badminton Tournaments	Billboard On-Air
GMA 7	Leya (2:45 PM)	Joyride (3:15 PM)	Snow Angel (3:45 PM)		One Piece	Witch Hunter Robin	Slam Dunk	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Mulawin	Starstruck (8:45 PM)	Forever In My Heart (9:15 PM)		Nuts Entertainment			Saksi
RPN 9	Metro TV Shopping			Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Entertainment Tonight	Scrubs	Everwood		Ally McBeal		For Love Or Money 1		Newswatch Now	Corge For Truth		
IBC 13		V League				IBC Express Balita		Lifestyle		On Air Tambayan		Direk	Junior Reyes Report	Bestfriends	Celebrity Single	MTV Filler	IBC News Tonite	Breaking Barriers	
Solar		Wwe Heat		WWE Confidential		Fantastic Four	Static Shock	Godzilla	Incredible Hulk	Invisible Man		Wwe Raw				Wwe Heat		WWE Confidential	
Nickelodeon	Dora, The Explorer	Little Bear	Blues Clues	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Nick Mix		100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd				Rugrats
MYX		Urban MYX		Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mellow MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Live!		My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Knock First	JKX	The Today Show		Starting Over		NBC Nightly News	Entertainment Tonight	Will & Grace	Good Morning Miami	For Love Or Money		Meet My Folks		Tonight Show With Jay Leno		Blind Date	Fifth Wheel
Cinema One		Milan				Mila				Hesus Rebolusyunaryo			Persona	American Adobo (9:15 PM)				Singsing Ni Lola	
Studio 23								Batman Animated Series	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Wazzup Wazzup	Mr. Bean	C.S.I.	Angel			News Central	The Oprah Winfrey Show		Yes Dear
AXN		Fear Factor		Alias		Ripley's Believe It or Not		Samurai X	Samurai X	Beastmaster		The Amazing Race		CSI: Crime Scene Investign		Fear Factor		Alias	
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares/ American Idol 4 2hr Special	Home Improvement	Ally McBeal		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	Ed/ American Idol 4 2hr Special		Philly		Third Watch		Friends	Ed
CNN				Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News Asia		World News	Main Sail	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
National Geographic	On Assignment	Passport		Taboo		Extreme Latitude	Revolutionary Rhythms	The Snake Wranglers	Croc Chronicles Dr. Brady Barr	Wild		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Passport		Taboo	
Solar Sports		IBF Japan '04 MS/MDbl Finals				FIVB World Grand Prix USA vs. China				GWS ep.55	KOTV Classics		NBA Action	NBA Game Denver @ Seattle					NBA Inside Stuff
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Wolfgang Puck's	E! Entertainment Special		Love Chain	You're Invited	Nigella Bites	Fine Living Special		New York Nick	Style Star
HBO	The Howling			Only You (3:55 PM)			Hoodlum & Son (5:40 PM)			Trapped (7:15 PM)				Multiplicity				Double Team (10:55PM)	
Star Movies		To Kill A King (3:15 PM)				That Thing You Do!				Hollywood One On One (6:55 PM)	Wildfire 7 (7:25 PM)			Rapid Fire			The Assassination File (10:35PM)		
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Sylvester & Tweety Mysteries	Police Academy	He-Man & The Masters Of The Universe	Teen Titans	Yu-Gi-Oh!	Gundam Seed	The Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls	Codename Kids Next Door	Mr. T	Josie And The Pussycats	Boomerang - Boomeraction	Yu-Gi-Oh!
ESPN	Pro Billiards '04 Trick Shot Magic NV USA World Pool Masters '04 Ann Zee Holland		Premier Snooker League '04 Cardiff Wales				Goals!	Sportscenter Taiwan	Pool/Snooker Mosconi Cup '04		Pro Billiards '04 Sudden Death 7-Ball NV USA		2004 Women's Tournament of Champions		Sportscenter Asia				
Disney Channel	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Lizzie Mcguire	Even Stevens	That's So Raven	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	The Legend Of Tarzan	Lilo & Stitch/Un-talkative Bunny	America's Funniest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	According To Jim	America's Funniest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax			Little Women (3:45 PM)				In Pursuit of Honor (5:45 PM)				Hercules And The Amazon Women			Changing Lanes			Think Seniors (10:40PM)		
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	10.5				Play With Me Sesame	Sesame Street		Bewitched	Agency II		Chang!		Shadow Lake			Strong Medicine (10:35PM)		Agency II (11:25PM)
Discovery Channel		Science Mysteries		Science Frontiers		Wild Science		Ultimate Discovery		Afghan Beauty		The Veils Of Rajasthan		Wild Science		Ultimate Discovery		Crossings: Olivia Lum	
MTV Philippines		MTV Dryes		Non-Stop Hits		Non-Stop Hits		MTV Get Spotted	MTV Loveline	Non-Stop Hits		MTV Rock'd	Whatever Things	TRL		Room Raiders	One Bad Trip	VH1 Hits/ Video Collection	
Sports Plus		WTA L.A. Mauresmo vs. Kuznetsova				Superbowl6 Cowboys vs Dolphins		Porsche md 9&10	Golf Academy 2002	NBA Game Detroit vs. Orlando					NFL Gameday	WTA L.A. Mauresmo vs. Kuznetsova			
EWTN	Council Of Faith	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Refurbishing The Soul	The Donut Man	Faith Factory	The Holy Rosary With Mother Angelica and the Nuns Of Our Lady Of Angels Monastery	Saints For The Third Millenium	The Virtues	EWTN Gallery	Mother Angelica Live Classics		One In Their Hearts	Pope Pius XII	Daily Mass		Angelus (10:15PM)	St. Catherine Of Sienna	Our Father's Plan	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat pangmulat
TUWING HUWEBES pagkatapos ng American Idol
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC

INQ TV
INQ TV

Acer LCD Monitors
Acer 15" LCD Monitor
AL 1511
- Max Resolution : 1024 x 768
- Brightness : 250 cd/m2
- Contrast Ratio : 350:1
- Dimension : 345 x 353 x 160
- Weight : 3.0kg

SRP: P 15,280.00
For inquiries, call: 815-3388
acer

WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 19, 2005
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
B1
BUSINESS
E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inq7money.net
Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma
Text us your feedback: Inquirer biz name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

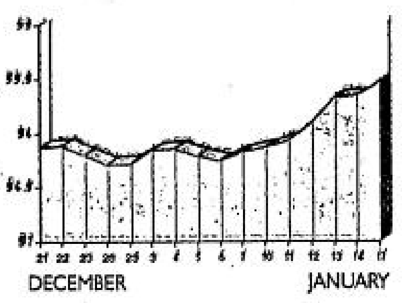
AUDIOVISUAL • COMPUTER
RENTALS
Call: RENTAL DIVISION
BRAIN
Your One Stop Audiovisual Shop
Ideal for: CONVENTION • SEMINAR TRAINING • MEETINGS CORPORATE EVENT • CONCERT PARTIES • SPECIAL OCCASION TRADE SHOW • EXHIBIT
☎ 721-2466 • 722-8843 • 722-8845 • 727-9803

RP firms unfazed by credit downgrade

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



P 55.645 : $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Jan. 18, 2005

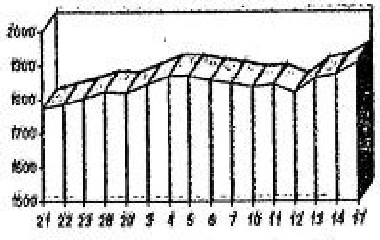
¥ 102.61 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Jan. 18, 2005

GOLD: $ 421.30-421.80
per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 18, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Shares down on ratings downgrade

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

SHARE prices closed 0.19 percent lower yesterday on profit taking in select stocks after a sovereign credit ratings downgrade by Standard and Poor's hit sentiment, dealers said.

They said there had been concerns the market would react badly to the downgrade, which could complicate the government's efforts to remedy persistent budget deficits, but reaction was muted as the move had been expected.

The Philippine Stock Exchange shed 3.73 points to 1,905.45, off a low of 1,901.44 and a high of 1,911.50.

Turnover fell to 1.43 billion shares worth P1.46 billion from 3.67 billion shares worth P1.9 billion Monday.

The broader all shares index fell 8.94 points to 1,154.98.

Gainers, however, beat losers 61 to 39, with 46 stocks unchanged.

S&P said the ratings downgrade follows what it sees are inadequate efforts by the Philippine government to solve its fiscal problems.

AB Capital Securities research director Jose Vistan Jr. said investors had long expected a downgrade was forthcoming as lawmakers failed to pass most of the proposed tax bills last year.

"Market players were prepared for the worst. S&P's action simply stalled the market's buying momentum but we expect the upside to continue," Vistan said.

AFP

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez and Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY'S biggest conglomerates were unperturbed by Standard & Poor's decision Monday to downgrade the country's sovereign credit rating, saying the cut simply indicated that the government's response to its fiscal problems was not enough.

In line with the sovereign downgrade, S&P also revised its long-term foreign currency corporate credit ratings on San Miguel Corp., Universal Robina Corp., National Power Corp., Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Globe Telecom Inc.'s local currency to 'BB-' from 'BB'. The outlook on these ratings was stable.

Sources from Gokongwei-led food and beverage firm URC said the group was fully funded for its expansion plans and liquidity requirements in the next few years.

URC is refinancing maturing debts next year and funding the expansion of existing plants in Indonesia and Thailand with funds raised by its offshore subsidiary from a recent international and domestic offering.

Sources said URC has successfully raised $200 million from a fixed rate issuance by URC Philippines Ltd.

The seven-year notes are due in 2012 and yield an interest rate of 8.25 percent.

Sources from the Ayala Group said they did not see any major adverse effects of S&P's decision on their borrowing program, saying it has looked less on foreign debt by converting its dollar-denominated obligations into peso debt.

This year, the Ayala Group said it has pre-funded its maturing liabilities of roughly $200 million and part of next year's $70 million in liabilities. Ayala Corp., in what was touted as the biggest corporate peso bond issue in the country's history, last year issued P7 billion worth of bonds that are slated to mature in five years. Ayala will use the net proceeds from its bond issue to partially refinance its dollar bonds due this year, which were earlier issued in 1999 by AC International Finance Ltd., Ayala's wholly owned subsidiary. Ayala's move to raise peso-denominated funding was consistent with its strategy to shift the bulk of its borrowings to local currency. The company has close to P6 billion in cash at the parent level and $140 million in undrawn, committed credit facilities, which can adequately cover

TITLE/B5

Gov't to pursue foreign borrowings

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance said the national government's plan to borrow abroad early in the year would not be hampered in any way by the credit-rating downgrade the Philippines suffered from international ratings firm Standard & Poor's.

Finance Undersecretary Eric Recto, who is in charge of the government's foreign borrowings, said the international capital market practically gave no negative response to the downgrade, at least as of yesterday, or a day after S&P issued its decision.

"Right now, there's no need to adjust based on market reaction. Everything is pretty much the same," Recto told reporters. He said that if there were unfavorable reactions, those were only "very nominal."

Recto explained that the market had expected the downgrade, and therefore may have already factored it in the pricing of Philippine debt papers in the past.

The DOF earlier said it plans to make a debt offering offshore "anytime soon," targeting to raise $1 billion to start filling in the government's financing requirement for the year.

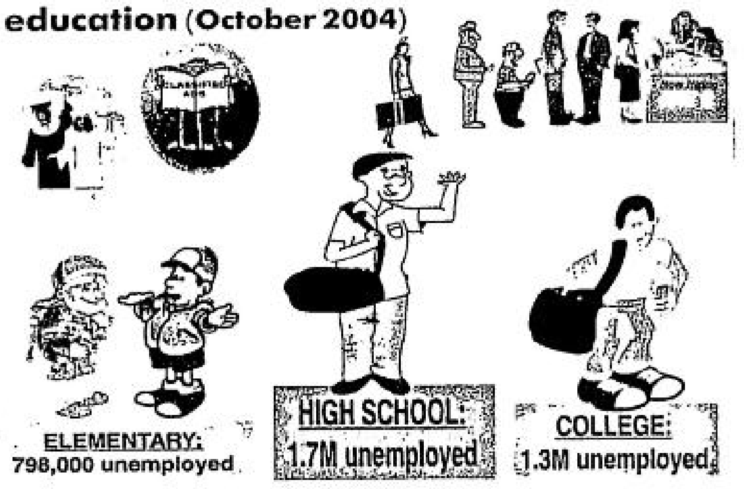
For 2005, the government is set to borrow $4 billion from foreign sources to finance both the requirements of the government

GOV'T/B4

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

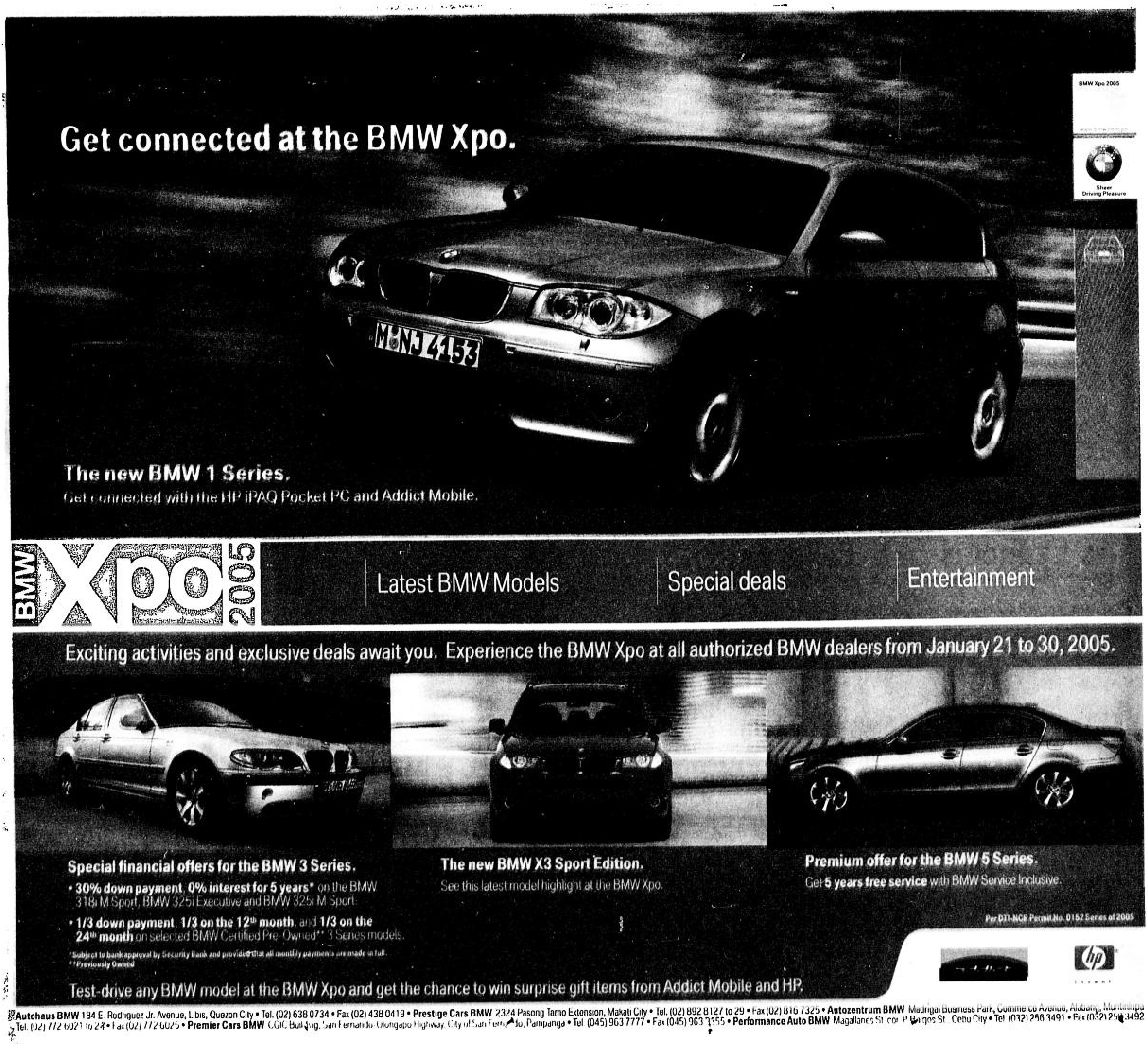
Unemployed persons by highest level of education (October 2004)



Source: National Statistics Office

BASED on the October 2004 survey, the number of unemployed in the country rose by 8.9 percent to over 3.8 million compared to the same period in 2003. Unemployed person is defined as one who has no job or business but is actively looking for work as well as one who is not looking for work because of the belief there is none available.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research


BMW Xpo 2005

Get connected at the BMW Xpo.

The new BMW 1 Series.
Get connected with the HP iPAQ Pocket PC and Addict Mobile.

BMW Xpo 2005 | Latest BMW Models | Special deals | Entertainment

Exciting activities and exclusive deals await you. Experience the BMW Xpo at all authorized BMW dealers from January 21 to 30, 2005.

Special financial offers for the BMW 3 Series.
- **30% down payment, 0% interest for 5 years*** on the BMW 318i M Sport, BMW 325i Executive and BMW 325i M Sport.
- **1/3 down payment, 1/3 on the 12th month,** and **1/3 on the 24th month** on selected BMW Certified Pre-Owned** 3 Series models.

*Subject to bank approval by Security Bank and provided that all monthly payments are made in full.
**Previously Owned

The new BMW X3 Sport Edition.
See this latest model highlight at the BMW Xpo.

Premium offer for the BMW 5 Series.
Get **5 years free service** with BMW Service Inclusive.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0152 Series of 2005

Test-drive any BMW model at the BMW Xpo and get the chance to win surprise gift items from Addict Mobile and HP.

Autohaus BMW 184 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Libis, Quezon City • Tel. (02) 638 0734 • Fax (02) 438 0419 • **Prestige Cars BMW** 2324 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City • Tel. (02) 892 8127 to 29 • Fax (02) 816 7325 • **Autozentrum BMW** Madrigal Business Park, Commerce Avenue, Alabang, Muntinlupa Tel. (02) 772 6021 to 24 • Fax (02) 772 6025 • **Premier Cars BMW** CGIC Building, San Fernando-Olongapo Highway, City of San Fernando, Pampanga • Tel. (045) 963 7777 • Fax (045) 963 3355 • **Performance Auto BMW** Magallanes St. cor. P. Burgos St., Cebu City • Tel. (032) 256 3491 • Fax (032) 256 3492

BIR forges links with Globe, Smart to collect taxes

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue has tied up with wireless giants Globe Telecom Inc. and Smart Communications Inc. to make it easier for small taxpayers to settle their obligations with the BIR.

Taxpayers can settle as much as P10,000 in penalties and fees through the electronic payment services of Globe and Smart, according to the BIR.

First to launch the program is Globe, which today would sign an agreement with the BIR and the Land Bank of the Philippines to coordinate the payments of business registration through G-Cash.

"We are launching first the payment of the business registration required of all business establishments every January," BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno said. "This is only P500. Eventually, I think the mobile system could handle other small payments like fines and penalties."

The BIR chief said Globe would collect the registration payments being done through G-Cash then remit this to the internal revenue agency through the LandBank.

"The LandBank already has a system of forwarding to the BIR the list of taxpayers and their payments to the BIR system," Parayno said.

The telco firms' electronic payment system would complement the BIR's mobile revenue officers. About 600 field agents of the bureau conduct on-spot audits of establishments, Parayno said.

He said with G-Cash, the mobile BIR agents could ask an errant taxpayer to settle his obligations on the spot.

"With the electronic system of the telcos and our own mobile system, the BIR would have a faster time collecting payments for fines and penalties," said Parayno. "But we would allow only small tax payments to go through the telcos."

The Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) earlier expressed its concern that dirty money could flow through the electronic payment system.

"The AMLC allowed us (to transact) only up to P10,000," Parayno said.

Government collected ₱42.16B from state firms in '04–DOF

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL government collected P42.16 billion worth of borrowing payments from government-owned and -controlled corporations in January to November last year, keeping it on track of its goal to substantially reduce the amount it lends to state-owned firms, according to the Department of Finance.

The national government, which is confronted with a serious fiscal problem of its own, wants to reduce the dependence of GOCCs on sovereign finances.

Officials said they have begun putting in place stricter policies on lending to these state-owned companies to encourage them to become creative in shoring up their revenues.

While the government collected P42.16 billion from GOCCs during the period, it also lent out P46.385 billion.

This resulted in a net lending of P4.225 billion for the first 11 months of 2004. The latest net lending figure was much lower than the P8.795 billion recorded in September.

Net lending refers to the difference between the amount of money lent by the national government to GOCCs in need of financing, and the amount the government collected in payment.

The Department of Finance said the collection of huge payments from GOCCs in the first 11 months of last year gives enough reason to be optimistic that net lending for 2004 will be below P5 billion. This will be much lower than the P8.9-billion target set for the year.

Data from the DOF showed that the heaviest borrowers during the period were the National Power Corp. (P4.801 billion), Ninoy Aquino International Airport (P725 million), National Electrification Administration (P520 million), and Light Rail Transit Authority (P489 million).

On the other hand, those that paid the biggest amounts were National Power Corp. (P33.752 billion), Land Bank of the Philippines (P2.835 billion), Public Estates Authority (P840 million), Ninoy Aquino International Airport (P737 million) and National Electrification Administration (P703 million).

The DOF recently formed a debt and risk management office to review the liabilities of the government, including those of state-owned companies.

The office would then recommend strategies to maintain or even reduce the liabilities of the GOCCs and government.

The DOF said the government is also putting in place a scorecard system, which would reward or penalize GOCCs based on their performance, such as in terms of revenue generation.

The reported burgeoning debts of state-owned firms—which Congress largely blamed for the country's fiscal mess—prompted the government to tighten its watch on the firms' financial performances.

The liabilities of GOCCs account for half of the total public sector debt.

Public sector debt, or the combined liabilities of the national government, local government units and GOCCs, stood at P4.349 trillion in 2003.

At present, the debt figure is currently being re-computed.

Legislators want to study how the finances of GOCCs are being managed—or mismanaged—by their officials, most of whom are now being criticized for receiving fat salaries at the expense of the state firms.

Semirara hopes to raise $28M for '05 expansion

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE COUNTRY'S largest coal producer Semirara Mining Corp. hopes to raise $28 million from international and local offering of shares to fuel its expansion plans this year.

Semirara will not only borrow from suppliers, it also plans to raise additional capital from an international offer of 79 million shares and a local offer of 15 million shares at roughly P22 to P44 a share.

Semirara officials next week are set to go to various countries to drum up interest from foreign investors.

The proceeds will fund the retirement of debt and be used to expand Semirara's coal-producing capacity to 3.5 million metric tons from the present 2.6 million tons.

DMCI Holdings Inc., which will sell its shares in Semirara as part of the international and local offers, will use the proceeds to settle preferred shares worth P800 to P900 million. Part of the proceeds will also go to the development of an 84-hectare property in Taguig.

A portion of that property has been developed into a four-story residential walk-up building.

Semirara produces 92 percent of the country's coal. Semirara also accounts for 23 percent of the total coal requirements of the Philippines.

Semirara had earned roughly P1.3 billion last year due to improved production and higher prices of coal in the world market, a sharp climb from the P138-million net income reported in 2003.

Commercial bank lending grew by 3.6% in November

By Doris C. Dumlao

LENDING activities of commercial banks picked up for the ninth straight month in November from a year ago as loan demand from the manufacturing sector remained robust, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday reported.

Outstanding loans of more than 40 commercial banks hit P1.54 trillion at the end of November, up 3.6 percent from a year ago, BSP data showed.

The outstanding loans likewise grew on a monthly basis by 4.2 percent. Lending in October reached P1.48 trillion, reversing the 1.1 percent contraction of the previous month.

"The continued growth in commercial bank lending coincides with the improvements in real sector activity and strengthens expectations that the domestic economy will remain on a steady growth path," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

The BSP also expects stronger credit demand this year in line with a decline in world crude oil prices and signs of an improving business climate.

The manufacturing sector continued to account for the largest contribution to the total loan expansion.

Loans to the sector grew by 16.2 percent at end-November over last year, an acceleration from the 2.5 percent growth posted a year earlier but slightly lower than the 17.9 percent growth seen in October.

Manufacturing accounts for about 70 percent of industrial output and about a quarter of the domestic economy.

"Signs of an improving business climate, as evidenced by higher-than-expected GDP (gross domestic product) growth, the strong performance of the Philippine Stock Exchange in the fourth quarter, as well as the continued decline in oil prices in the global market should support improving credit demand in the coming year, Buenaventura said.

The following sectors also contributed to the increase in commercial bank lending: agriculture, fisheries and forestry (0.7 percentage point); wholesale and retail trade (0.2 percentage point); and electricity, gas and water (0.2 percentage point); and, community, social and personal services (.03 percentage point).

But the decline in lending to the other sectors such as the financial institution, real estate and business services, construction, transportation, storage and communication, and mining and quarrying, moderated the overall growth in commercial bank loans for November.

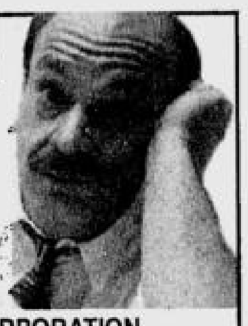
"For its part, the BSP will continue to help promote a conducive monetary and financial environment for credit growth," Buenaventura said. "At the same time, monetary authorities shall monitor and assess the evolving conditions for economic activity while guarding against the possible persistence of price pressures."

To encourage loan expansion, the Monetary Board has maintained the BSP's overnight borrowing or reverse repurchase rate at 6.75 percent, and the overnight lending or repurchase rate at 9 percent. The BSP has kept the same levels kept since July last year, when it cut each rate by 25 basis points to match a similar move by the United States Federal Reserve.

It last raised rates in October 2000.

The BSP expects the inflation rate this year to go down after the first quarter and reach 5 percent in the fourth quarter. The figure is expected to exceed the 4-5 percent full-year target.

Monetary authorities believe the current inflationary pressures would be best addressed by non-monetary intervention to facilitate production, timely importation, distribution and delivery of key commodities. *With a report from Reuters*



LOAN PROBLEMS?
- Do you need loans for working capital and business expansion ?
- Do you have past due loans that need to be restructured ?
- Is your bank foreclosing or has the bank foreclosed your collateral ?

We can help you!!!
DIOMAMPO CONSULTING CORPORATION
9/F LEGASPI SUITES, 178 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 8182414 - 8184480 Fax 8193294 diocon@tri-isys.com
DIOMAMPO CONSULTING

Opportunity knocks but once.
JOB Market
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

IMPORTED WHEELCHAIR
- Fixed armrests
- Frame coated in dark blue color
- 8"/24" solid wheels

STAR MILLS PAMPANGA 2nd Flr. (45) 636- 3513
SM MANILA 5TH FLR. 484-1471
COMFORT WHEELCHAIR
FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
SM MEGAMALL 5th Flr., Bldg A 635-04-36
SM FAIRVIEW Basement 418 75-40
SM NORTH EDSA Car Park Plaza 453-3326
SM SOUTHMALL Basement 802-15-65
ROBINSONS GALLERIA Basement 636-5061
CEBU 417-82-86

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Executive Seminar Series
Proudly Presents
Francis Kong's
3rd ACHIEVERS & LEADERS SEMINAR
February 10, 2005 Makati Shangri-La Hotel

Featuring:
"Top Efficiency: Executive Time Management" by Anthony Pangilinan, corporate trainer and time management consultant
"Discipline: What You Need to Go from GOOD to GREAT" by Franco del Rosario, CEO, Six Sigma Consulting, Chairman, Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) Conference
"Breaking the Barriers to Excellence" by Roselle Ambubuyog, Sought-after Speaker & Consultant; first visually-impaired Valedictorian & Summa Cum Laude to graduate (BS Mathematics) from Ateneo de Manila
"The TURNAROUND Leader: Motivating a Team of Achievers to Work Together" by Butch Jimenez*, TOYM Awardee, VP, PLDT and award-winning producer of Rizal and Muro-Ami
* invited
"Mission Dreamteam: How to make the team work to make the dream work" by Chot Reyes, newly-appointed national coach for basketball; PBA champion coach; President, Coachcom, Inc.

Discover what it takes to be an excellent leader
3rd Achievers & Leaders Seminar
The Elements of Excellence
Draw inspiration. Motivate your team to start the New Year right.

7 sessions that will change you and your team's lives
- Discover what it takes to be an EXCELLENT LEADER
- Learn how to focus and do more in less time
- Learn how companies made the transition from GOOD to GREAT
- Learn the ropes of building and managing a brilliant team of achievers AND MORE!

Extended to January 21, 2005
Reserve now and avail of our:
- Early bird rate of ₱6,577+10% VAT (until ~~Jan~~ ~~14~~, 2005)
- Regular rate is ₱7,577+10% VAT
- Walk-In/On-Site Rate is ₱7,977+10% VAT
- Academe rate is ₱2,977

Call us for special group rates.

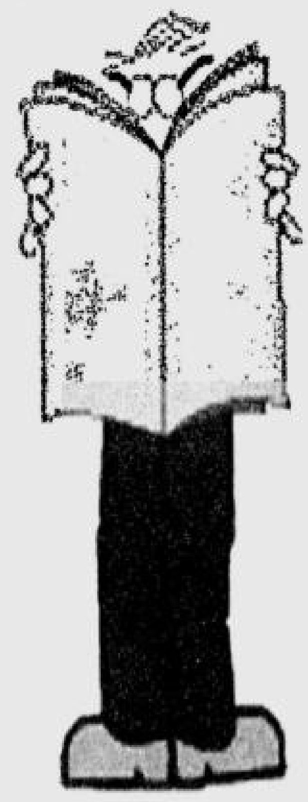
Conference fees include seminar participation, materials, lunch, snacks and certificate

Bring Francis Kong's 3rd Achievers & Leaders Seminar to your company or province, LIVE VIA SATELLITE. Call or e-mail us for details.

For reservations or to get a copy of the seminar outline, call Salt & Light Ventures, Inc. at 830-2191, 813-2732/45/03 and ask for Jenny or e-mail us at slvguru@pldtDSL.net

Creative Agency: BCD•PINPOINT
Official Interactive Agency:
Direct Mail Solutions Provider: Spring
Allcard
Produced and Organized by: SALT & LIGHT VENTURES
Bringing out the BEST in you

Rave Reviews:
"Best seminar I have ever attended!" - Pedro Lim, Pru Life, U.K.
"We loved it! When is the next one so I can send my entire team?" - Stephen Misa, Microsoft
"This is one of the best training I have attended. The speakers are great!" - Emily Honquilada, Penshoppe
"Very educational and inspiring!" - Albert Ventura, EDSA Properties Holdings
"Francis Kong was brilliant! ABSOLUTELY EXCELLENT!" - Monica Duloy, Unilever-Bestfood Solutions



Where you find the best.
VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com
JOB Market
JOB Market ONLINE

WHAT GOOD IS A MAN'S WEALTH WITHOUT GOOD HEALTH?

Medical research states that abdominal fat increases risk for heart disease, stroke, diabetes, hypertension and some forms of cancer.

INSTITUT SANTRE, the first and only body toning center for men is now in the Philippines.

We offer the safest and most effective method to lose weight and inches.
No surgery. No medication. No side effects.

Take that first step towards total health and visit us today for a complimentary body analysis.

A First for Men

2nd Floor, 22 Jupiter St. Makati City
Telephone: +632.759.55.99
Fax: +632.759.55.77
Cellular: +63917.819.55.99
www.institutsantre.com

INSTITUT
SANTRE
THE AUTHORITY IN BODY TONING

Model Units
Ready for Viewing at the Project Site

FIFTH AVENUE PLACE

Affordable lifestyles on Millionaire's row

1-BR, 2-BR
& 3-BR UNITS
AVAILABLE

High-style living doesn't have to come with a steep price tag.

Presenting Fifth Avenue Place, the newest premier address to rise at the Fort Bonifacio Global City.

Choose from studio, one, two and three bedroom units surrounded by lush gardens and wide open spaces. Each with a stunning view of the city skyline, at prices within your reach.

38-Storey Residential Condominium

Fort Bonifacio (beside Essensa)

Tel. Nos.: 636-0888 • 0922-8380888

ROBINSONS LAND
CORPORATION
www.RobinsonsProperties.com.ph
Email: properties@rlc.com.ph

GROUP REORGANIZATION

Lapanday to consolidate firms

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

HOLDING firm Lapanday Holdings Corp. of the Lorenzo family plans to merge with affiliate companies to strengthen operations.

According to its merger application with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Lapanday will merge with Macondray Holdings Corp. and Parkvale Corp.

Lapanday will be the surviving corporation.

Lapanday Holdings has an authorized capital of P320 million, while Macondray has P800 million and Parkvale, P25 million.

Lapanday originally operated a group of banana plantations that sold fruit and packed for multinational brands Del Monte and Chiquita.

The organization transformed itself by establishing markets independent of the multinationals, through quality control methods and by adapting industry best practices.

This allowed Lapanday to be the only Filipino-owned brand in the global marketplace, accounting for more than a fourth of Philippine banana exports.

The company supplies bananas to Japan, China, Korea, Singapore, New Zealand and the Middle East.

THE PHILIPPINES' banana exporters will continue to knock on Australia's barred doors.

PDI PHOTO

RP to keep up trade fight with Australia

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture has said it will keep up its trade fight with Australia, even as Australian producers said they would step up their campaign to keep Philippine bananas from entering the lucrative market.

The DA said it will continue to pursue moves to force Australia to open up its market as part of its efforts to expand the market for local bananas.

The Philippine government had already asked the World Trade Organization to create a panel to settle the bitter dispute.

The Australian Banana Growers Council hinted in its website that it will exhaust all means possible to ensure that the "no banana imports" regime is maintained.

"At the outset, I said the industry must be prepared to do whatever it takes to win this fight—including engaging the best scientific minds in the country to develop our case," said Australian Banana Growers Council spokesperson Len Collins.

Collins said that in 2004, the industry raised $1.5 million from growers' funds to sustain their pitch to keep foreign bananas from reaching Australian ports. More funds are expected to be raised this year to pursue the group's efforts to close the market to foreign players.

"Consultants do not come cheap, but the alternative was to stand by while faceless Canberra bureaucrats handed over responsibility of Australia's quarantine regime to Philippines' plantation owners and workers—which is an outcome we could never have accepted," said Collins in a statement posted in the website.

Citystate Savings Bank, Inc.
709 Shaw Blvd., Pasig City
Statement of Condition
As of December 20, 2004

		AMOUNT:
ASSETS		
Cash & Cash Items	P	34,770,555.18
Due From Bangko Sentral		13,616,381.41
Due From Other Banks		251,662,004.30
Interbank Loans Receivable		226,000,000.00
Loans, Discounts & Advances (net)		435,435,306.66
Trading Accounts Securities		162,914,320.66
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		23,410,112.63
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (Net)		97,887,763.37
Other Assets (Net):		
Property Owned/ Acquired		142,018,129.71
Others		70,483,869.68
TOTAL ASSETS	P	1,457,498,473.80
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	P	92,901,977.76
Savings Deposits		785,324,947.71
Bills Payable		24,114,598.76
Due to BSP		350,000.00
Managers Check		4,770,354.87
Accrued Interest, Taxes & Other Expenses Payable		4,046,052.12
Unearned Income & Other Deferred Credits		1,230,241.24
Other Liabilities		21,294,304.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	934,032,476.46
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS :		
Capital Stock	P	441,000,000.00
Paid-In Surplus		2,222,444.00
Surplus Free		59,975,056.21
Undivided Profits		20,268,495.13
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	523,465,997.34
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	1,457,498,473.80
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS :		
Items Held For Safekeeping	P	8,475.00
Items Held As Collateral		3,284.00
Late Deposits / payments received		757,596.89
Deficiency Claims Receivable		1,434,382.42
Outward Bills for Collections		16,700.00
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	2,218,438.31

COMPLIANCE WITH MAGNA CARTA LAW:

	6% For Small Enterprises	2% For Medium Enterprises
Prescribed Rates of Compliance	6% For Small Enterprises	2% For Medium Enterprises
Actual Compliance	6.66 %	10.84 %

OTHER INFORMATION: (CB Circular 208)

Non-performing loans and	P	24,521,257.25
Ratio to total Loan Portfolio		3.63%
Classified loans and other risk assets	P	24,521,257.25
General loan loss reserve	P	11,306,831.72
Specific loan loss reserve	P	3,749,759.61
Return on equity (ROE)		5.68%
DOSRI loans/advances	P	17,323,655.79
Ratio to total loan portfolio, and		2.59%
Past due DOSRI loans/advances and ratio to total portfolio		NIL

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
PASIG CITY) S.S.

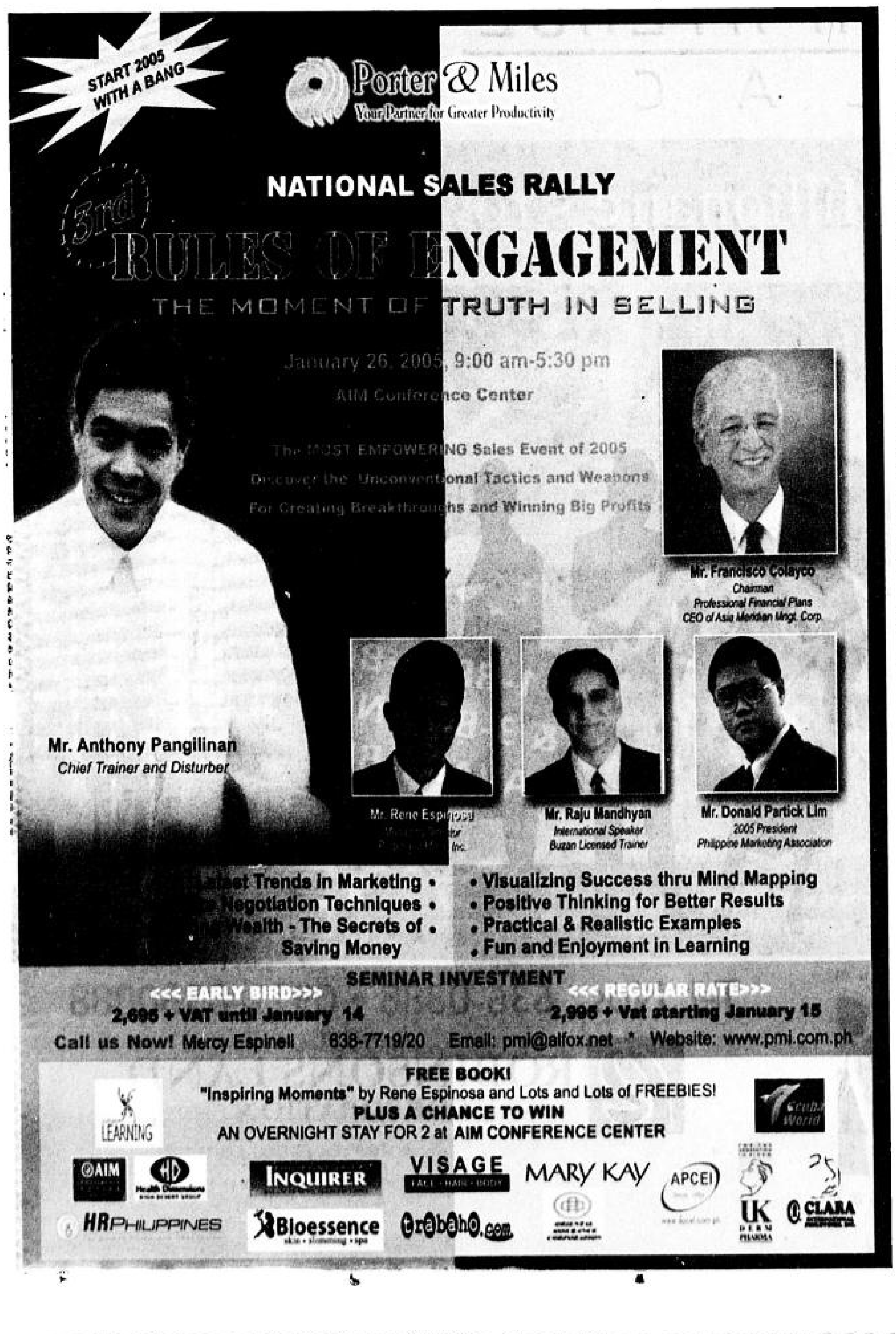
We, Eduardo O. Olavario and D. Alfred A. Cabangon, solemnly swear that all matters set forth in this report are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

EDUA, ALFRED A. CABANGOI
President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this __th day of _________, 2004 affiant exhibiting to me their Residence Certificate No 21281707 issued at Bacoor, Cavite on March 10, 2004 and Residence Certificate No. 14191838 issued at Mandaluyong City on January 21, 2004 respectively.

Doc No.
Page
Book No.
Series of 2004

NOTARY PUBLIC



START 2005 WITH A BANG

Porter & Miles
Your Partner for Greater Productivity

NATIONAL SALES RALLY
3rd
RULES OF ENGAGEMENT
THE MOMENT OF TRUTH IN SELLING

January 26, 2005, 9:00 am-5:30 pm
AIM Conference Center

The MOST EMPOWERING Sales Event of 2005
Discover the Unconventional Tactics and Weapons
For Creating Breakthroughs and Winning Big Profits

Mr. Francisco Colayco
Chairman
Professional Financial Plans
CEO of Asia Meridian Mngt. Corp.

Mr. Anthony Pangilinan
Chief Trainer and Disturber

Mr. Rene Espinosa

Mr. Raju Mandhyan
International Speaker
Buzan Licensed Trainer

Mr. Donald Partick Lim
2005 President
Philippine Marketing Association

- Latest Trends in Marketing
- Negotiation Techniques
- Wealth - The Secrets of Saving Money
- Visualizing Success thru Mind Mapping
- Positive Thinking for Better Results
- Practical & Realistic Examples
- Fun and Enjoyment in Learning

SEMINAR INVESTMENT
<<< EARLY BIRD>>> 2,695 + VAT until January 14
<<< REGULAR RATE>>> 2,995 + Vat starting January 15

Call us Now! Mercy Espineli 638-7719/20 Email: pmi@alfox.net * Website: www.pmi.com.ph

FREE BOOK!
"Inspiring Moments" by Rene Espinosa and Lots and Lots of FREEBIES!
PLUS A CHANCE TO WIN
AN OVERNIGHT STAY FOR 2 at AIM CONFERENCE CENTER

LEARNING · AIM · Health Dimensions · INQUIRER · VISAGE · MARY KAY · APCEI · UK DERM PHARMA · CLARA · HRPHILIPPINES · Bloessence · trabaho.com

Gov't . . .

From page B1

and of the state-owned National Power Corp. Of the $4 billion, $3 billion will be intended for the national government's needs, while the remaining $1 billion will be used to service the financing requirement of heavily indebted Napocor.

A trader confirmed that the market has not significantly reacted to the one-notch downgrade of the country's credit rating. S&P lowered on Monday the Philippines' long-term foreign currency sovereign debt to BB- from BB.

He said there were only knee-jerk market reactions immediately after the announcement of the downgrade, but spreads on Philippine bonds quickly recovered. Spread on the 10-year Philippine dollar bonds actually tightened to 418 basis points as of press time yesterday, from 420 basis points on Monday morning, or before the downgrade was announced.

Recto could not say whether the decision of S&P would influence ratings firm Moody's Investors Service, which is about to issue its own assessment of the Philippines by February. He said, however, that the government should show it was strongly pursuing its fiscal reform agenda and to hasten on implementation.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of January 18, 2005)

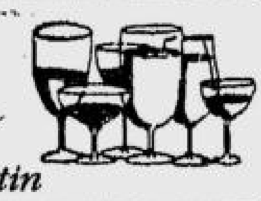
STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	27	27.5	27	27.5	270,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	54	54.5	54	54	3,015,600
China Banking Corp.	570	570	570	570	610
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	48	48	48	48	96,900
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	750,000
International Exch. Bank	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	660,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26	26.5	25.5	26	385,100
Philippine National Bank	22.75	22.75	22.75	22.75	6,000
Phil. Savings Bank	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	300
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	800
Security Bank Corp.	29.5	30.5	29.5	30	3,018,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	24	24.25	24	24.25	28,300
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	240,000
First Abacus Financial	0.5	0.58	0.5	0.58	600,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2430	2430	2430	2430	420
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	10,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	107	110	107	109	57,150
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1790	1795	1790	1790	540
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	18	18.5	18	18.25	74,300
Diversified Fin. Network	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	9,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.94	2	1.94	1.98	10,419,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	935	940	920	920	83,770
Ipeople Inc.	3.9	4.05	3.9	4.05	343,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.034	2,000,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.25	3.35	3.25	3.35	15,655,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1385	1395	1385	1385	37,480
Ivantage Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.64	0.64	560,000
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	23,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	16	16.5	16	16.5	166,400
Manila Electric Co. B	25	26.5	25	26	1,304,200
Petron Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.35	3.35	3,073,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.16	2.16	2.16	2.16	18,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	143,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.6	432,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	153,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	1,500,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.85	2.95	5,191,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.95	3	2.95	3	139,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	30.5	30	30	544,700
Jollibee Foods Corp.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	397,100
Pancake House Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	20,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	20,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58	58	57.5	58	862,100
San Miguel Corp. B	78	78	78	78	167,900
Universal Robina Corp.	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	749,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	250,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	4,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0065	0.007	0.006	0.0065	158,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0065	0.007	0.0065	0.007	16,000,000
Ayala Corp.	7.3	7.6	7.3	7.5	8,948,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.45	3.6	3.45	3.55	4,746,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	14,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.86	1.98	1.86	1.98	865,000
APC Group Inc.	0.11	0.14	0.11	0.135	16,200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	4,000,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	10,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	21.5	21.5	21.25	21.25	19,900
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.75	0.81	0.73	0.81	82,830,000
A Brown Co. Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	350,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.16	0.165	0.16	0.165	770,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.235	0.24	260,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.185	0.185	0.175	0.18	4,570,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.35	5,389,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.03	0.031	0.03	0.031	5,200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.14	1.22	1.14	1.18	1,762,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	7.5	7.6	7.4	7.5	5,878,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	33	36.5	32.5	36	3,586,700
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	1,050,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.065	0.0675	0.065	0.0675	3,600,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.8	0.81	0.8	0.81	1,810,000
Ionics Inc.	1.48	1.6	1.48	1.6	541,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.1	3	3.05	1,174,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.46	2.55	2.46	2.48	1,276,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.26	1.32	1.26	1.32	8,124,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	60,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.46	0.48	0.46	0.46	75,600,000
Prima Orion Phils. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	1,000,000
Prima Media Holdings Inc.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.04	262,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	320,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	280,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	20,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.135	0.13	0.135	2,610,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.17	0.18	0.17	0.18	6,910,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.19	0.215	0.19	0.215	630,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	50,000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	3,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	2,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.6	1.6	103,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	20,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0625	0.0675	0.0625	0.0675	4,600,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.62	0.64	0.62	0.64	8,270,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	1.08	1.14	1.08	1.14	4,595,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	51,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.29	0.34	0.29	0.32	4,740,000
Philippine Racing Club	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	40,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	18.25	18.5	18	18	327,500
Macroasia Corp. Warrants	0.0575	0.0575	0.0055	0.0055	200,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,300
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	4,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,200
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.7	7.8	7.7	7.7	5,485,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	30,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.54	0.56	0.54	0.56	200,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.31	0.34	0.31	0.33	21,730,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.145	0.15	0.145	0.15	60,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	30,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.36	0.39	0.36	0.38	31,040,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.24	1.38	1.24	1.38	35,225,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.0775	0.09	0.0775	0.09	2,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.18	0.185	0.18	0.185	1,050,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.64	0.65	0.64	0.65	870,000
Primex Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	50,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	200,000
SM Development Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	138,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.5	21,233,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.013	27,100,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	4.4	4.4	4.25	4.35	453,000
Benguet Corp. A	3.2	3.2	3	3	50,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	50,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.43	0.45	0.43	0.44	40,800,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.49	0.5	0.48	0.49	38,570,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.02	0.02	0.019	0.019	287,800,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.026	103,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.005	0.0055	0.005	0.0055	43,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1	1	0.97	0.98	8,180,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.04	1.08	1	1.06	18,926,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	1,770,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	3,800,000
Interport Res.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	40,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0036	0.0038	0.0036	0.0038	37,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	24,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	56,000,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	4,900,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.46	2.46	2.42	2.42	32,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.06	0.08	0.06	0.075	41,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.22	0.245	0.22	0.245	200,000

CURRENCIES

January 18, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.762893	1.000000	55.5330
Japan	Yen	0.007480	0.009805	0.5445
United Kingdom	Pound	1.426991	1.870500	103.8745
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.097857	0.128271	7.1233
Switzerland	Franc	0.646520	0.847458	47.0619
Canada	Dollar	0.627740	0.822842	45.6949
Singapore	Dollar	0.465946	0.610762	33.9174
Australia	Dollar	0.578563	0.758380	42.1151
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.023750	2.652731	147.3141
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.203438	0.266667	14.8088
Brunei	Dollar	0.464527	0.608902	33.8142
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000083	0.000109	0.0061
Thailand	Baht	0.019723	0.025853	1.4357
UAE	Dirham	0.207743	0.272309	15.1221
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.310800	72.7927
Argentina	Peso	0.259709	0.340426	18.9049
Brazil	Real	0.281989	0.369631	20.5267
Denmark	Kroner	0.134433	0.176215	9.7857
India	Rupee	0.017518	0.022962	1.2751
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.200788	0.263193	14.6159
Mexico	New Peso	0.068042	0.089190	4.9530
New Zealand	Dollar	0.532412	0.697885	38.7556
Norway	Kroner	0.122116	0.160069	8.8891
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012848	0.016841	0.9352
South Africa	Rand	0.127310	0.166878	9.2672
Korea	Won	0.000732	0.000959	0.0533
Sweden	Kroner	0.110433	0.144756	8.0387
Syria	Pound	0.014696	0.019264	1.0698
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023927	0.031363	1.7417
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000398	0.000522	0.0290

Joy good-luck club

COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

THE MANAGEMENT upheaval at the family-controlled United Laboratories Group appears to have been contained at the board level.

According to the grapevine, ex-Citibanker Carlos Ejercito remains safe as Unilab president despite Unilab chair/CEO Jose Campos Jr. being replaced by his *ate*, the very private Joy.

Notwithstanding his secure position, Ejercito appears to have become tone-deaf and finger-paralyzed since the boardroom shakeup, refusing (wisely) to take phone calls or to answer texted messages from a mischievous columnist.

Unilab, one of the region's largest pharmaceutical companies, has chosen to neither confirm nor deny the impending CEO change, which is expected to be carried out after the Chinese New Year, following the family's Chinoy heritage.

Little is publicly known about the incoming Unilab CEO except that she must be in her mid-to-late 50s, attended high school at the exclusive Assumption College—apparently a classmate of socialite Mary de Leon—and, like shipping heiress Doris Ho, went to Manhattanville, the former Catholic boarding school outside New York City that is strong in liberal arts, for college.

The Unilab management shakeup was apparently brewing for some time now, precipitated by a financial audit approved by no less than the ailing Unilab patriarch, Jose Yao Campos Sr.

According to people who claim to know the family, the patriarch and Joy were also unhappy with the joint venture entered into by Jose Jr., the second of the Campos children, with the Ayalas in Fort Bonifacio.

Joy joins a growing number of daughters of taipans—Henry Sy and Andrew Gotianun among them—who have been chosen over the eldest sons, despite Chinese custom, to lead their respective family empires.

And, if the grapevine is correct, the long-term succession issue in Unilab has also been resolved. After Joy, her son, Wharton-educated Clinton Hess, who is currently Unilab vice president in charge of supply chain operations, is tipped as next in line to the throne.

Waterfront's 2nd bounce

AFTER last weekend's Sinulog festival, the Cebu Waterfront will have a second chance to fill up the rooms this weekend when the city hosts an international convention of overseas Filipinos organized by New York-based millionaire Loida Nicolas-Lewis and San Francisco advertising executive Greg Macabenta.

Reason? Waterfront president Patrick Gregorio also heads the Cebu Visitors and Convention Bureau, and his and other hotels have already booked, excluding the local participants, 350 Fil-American delegates and 50 other delegates from Japan and Asia.

The convention is part of the Filipino global network that Lewis, Macabenta, and the San Francisco group of Alex Esclamado and lawyer Rodel Rodis are trying to cobble.

Greenbelt good/bad news

THE OPEN swath of land in the middle of Greenbelt Village that has been used as a car park has finally been turned into a real park, or, more correctly, half park, as the other half apparently is still reserved for parking.

The not-so-good news is, a Meralco transmitter station is being built right next to it.

A project of Barangay San Lorenzo and Macea, the association of Legaspi and Salcedo village property owners, the Greenbelt half-park even features a winding jogging path segregated from the car park.

The power station, on the other hand, will address the increasing power requirement in the neighborhood, which has seen a number of high-rise condominiums built over the years.

Another not-so-good news: Expect on-street parking to further choke the neighborhood streets, as there had been no dedicated parking building constructed within the vicinity to take up the displaced parking slots.

Heard through the grapevine

DR. DANIEL Vasquez, who is married to a Madrigal, met with certain members of the press at the Makati Shangri-la yesterday to brief them on the Madrigal clan decision not to enter into any new business venture with the Ayalas, in view of the Vasquezes' ongoing Alabang land dispute with their fellow hacienderos.

That means the planned joint venture with the Ayalas involving the 320-hectare Binangonan property of the Madrigals would no longer push through.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

RP firms unfazed . . .

From page B1

its maturing debts up to this year.

Meantime, San Miguel had factored in a possible downgrade by credit-rating firms on the country's sovereign debt and said it would not significantly affect its borrowing strategies.

It also does not see any major impact on its proposed bid to takeover Australian dairy giant National Foods Ltd. after it said it will fund the acquisition from new debt facilities and existing cash.

San Miguel recently announced its A$1.78 billion (US$1.37 billion) bid to acquire National Foods, Australia's biggest publicly listed dairy company.

PLDT and Globe Telecom yesterday said the one-notch downgrade in their debt rating would not affect their finances, credit plans nor share prices.

"The market expected this and priced it in. The rating is stable, which is positive," said Globe chief financial officer Delfin Gonzalez.

PLDT spokesperson Ramon Isberto said S&P's verdict should not affect the company because it has no plans to borrow this year. "In fact, we are paying down debt," he said.

PLDT chair Manuel Pangilinan earlier explained that since the company would not incur new borrowings, a credit-rating downgrade should not affect its bottomline.

A downgrade raises the cost of a company's borrowing, especially bonds and even to some extent equity. Pangilinan said that PLDT would not shoulder higher interest expenses because it was, in fact, reducing its obligations.

PLDT is settling at least $540 million in debts this year. Of this, $370 million is due to the fixed-line while its wireless units would have to repay $170 million.

Gov't urged to restore waning confidence in RP

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT will have to work overtime in the six months to shore up flagging confidence in the country, following the recent credit downgrade by Standard & Poor's, according to Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima.

"This time our initiatives must convince the international community that our actions will have a positive impact on the country's finances," Purisima said yesterday.

The official said that among the concerns that the government needed to address were how to increase tax collection, the privatization of the energy sector, reduction of the banking sector's non-performing assets and renewing the export growth.

"We are mindful of the work ahead and any failure to [push the] reform agenda will again place pressure on the country's credit rating," he said.

On Monday, global credit rating firm S&P announced a one-notch downgrade of the country's long-term foreign currency debt.

Citing the government's "inadequate" response to its fiscal problems, S&P lowered the credit rating to BB-, or three notches below investment grade.

This means that Philippine debt notes carried more risk to investors compared to those of countries with better credit ratings.

Thus, the Philippines will pay a higher interest to investors buying Philippine debt papers.

Purisima said the downgrade came as a surprise as S&P did not even send a team to discuss the country's financial situation with Philippine officials.

"A downgrading was done while reforms were being undertaken," he said.

Even then, Purisima said the government was hopeful that confidence would be regained as it was focusing on tax reform bills, privatization of government assets and corruption.

Earlier this month, the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines urged Congress to continue passing new tax measures to address the country's deficit following the passage of a bill that increased taxes on alcohol, cigarette and tobacco.

AmCham said the law on the so-called sin taxes—along with increased efforts to collect existing taxes, raise fees, eliminate losses of the National Power Corp. and institute tighter controls on public sector spending—should help improve the government's "worrisome" fiscal situation.

AmCham also pushed for similar measures, such as those on lateral attrition, rationalization of investment incentives, petroleum tax increases and elimination of exemptions to the value-added tax.

The proposed measures, along with sin taxes, are part of a tax reform package that Malacañang is pushing to be able to raise revenues and pare down deficit spending.

PITC ACCREDITED

165 drugstores to sell cheap medicine

THE GOVERNMENT has accredited 165 drug outlets that will sell low-cost essential medicines starting Jan. 20.

Of the 165 outlets, 150 are members of the Drugstores Association of the Philippines, 11 are run by the Cooperatives for Christ and four are operated by the Armed Forces of the Philippines commissary exchange service.

Roberto Pagdanganan, chair of the Philippine International Trading Center, said the outlets were on top of four "Botika ng Bayan" drugstores operating under a program that aims to halve the price of commonly bought medicines by 2010.

Pagdanganan said the move to accredit more outlets was spurred by the fact that the cost of commonly-bought medicines was five to six times higher than prices of similar drugs sold in other countries.

"This is the (Arroyo administration's) strategic response to a regime of high prices in the pharmaceutical industry," he said in a statement. "It is an overdue health relief for consumers."

The official explained that the "Botikas" and the accredited drugstores would market at considerably reduced prices a select range of quality medicines that the PITC buys locally and from abroad.

These medicines cure ailments such as hypertension, asthma and diabetes.

The drugstores could be identified by the accreditation seal of the PITC, Department of Health and the Bureau of Food and Drugs.

He said PITC plans to expand the Botika network to 300 drugstores nationwide.

In September 2004, the PITC signed with China's Biomedical Engineering Center of the Hebei Medical University a memorandum of understanding on a $25-million revolving credit facility for medicine and hospital supplies.

Under the MOU, state-owned Heibei Medical will supply PITC with quality drugs from China over a six-month period.

As a back-up mode of payment, Hebei Medical agreed to consider a possible $25-million countertrade arrangement with the Philippine government.

In a related effort, the Department of Trade and Industry said it will keep importing cheaper medicines from India, but will clamp down on counterfeits. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

PSBank
Prime
TIME DEPOSIT

✓ 9% interest p.a. -
GUARANTEED
✓ No withholding tax
✓ Only P50,000 minimum deposit
✓ 5 - year Time Deposit
✓ Monthly crediting of interest

Visit any of our 139 PSBank branches nationwide.
BancNet Member of the PDIC. Maximum Deposit Insurance for each Depositor P250,000.00
Quoted rate is for a limited time only and is subject to change without prior notice.

Unleash a Jaguar Sales Event
Start the new year right.
Call for details on our special financial packages.

S-TYPE XJ X-TYPE

S-TYPE
XJ
X-TYPE

New vehicle warranty: 3-years or 100,000 km.

JAGUAR CARS, INC.
MAKATI SHOWROOM
ENZO Bldg., 399 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
Tel: (632) 897-8888 Fax: (632) 895-2677
E-mail: sales@jaguar.com.ph

SERVICE CENTER
3904 Quingua St. (near EDSA/BUENDIA), Makati City
Tel:(632) 881-7252;(632) 881-7060 Fax:(632) 882-6503
Jaguar Service Helpline: +63 9209-JAGUAR (+63 9209-524827)
E-mail: service_ctr@jaguar.com.ph

ORTIGAS SHOWROOM
88 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel: (632) 633-3976 to 78
Fax: (632) 633-3976 to 77

JAGUAR
Born to perform

PEOPLE at WORK

Text us your feedback: inquirer paw name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

How do you climb the ladder at work?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: My goal is the corner office. I've been working hard to get there but I don't think anyone has noticed. What am I doing wrong?

Higher Aspirations

Recently, I read about a six-month-old girl who was married in southern Nepal. Her husband is much more mature, he's three! The prime movers for this marriage were the children's parents, who were concerned that each child's marriage prospects would diminish as they got older.

Okay, marrying off your toddlers is getting things started much too early. But when it comes to your career and climbing the corporate ladder, there is no such thing as getting too early a start. I've given you some strategies below to increase your odds of getting to the next rung. For more, check out "On the Job" by Stephen Viscusi (Three Rivers, 2001).

Ask your boss, "What can I do to improve my chances of getting a promotion?" It is a waste of time to try to guess what it will take to get ahead. You've got to go to the source. Find a time that your boss is in a good mood and ask her to be as specific as possible about what you'd need to do to get ahead in your company. Ask about the kind of performance that she expects to see, what projects you need to be working on and what additional expertise you'll need.

Ask your boss, "What can I do to help you?" If you want your boss to take a special interest in your career it's important for you to take a special interest in his. Start by looking for ways that you can support the stuff that is most important to him or by tackling the kinds of projects that he least enjoys working on.

What track record does your boss have for sponsoring and promoting employees? A manager once told me that he'd had nine assistants go on to become managers in his company. He talked proudly of his "alumni network" and how often it had provided valuable support to him.

Do you avoid putting all your eggs in your boss' basket? Serve on projects and committees that will allow you to work with other managers in your company. Develop a group of people who are invested in your success.

What interesting, rewarding or challenging projects are on the horizon? Personally, I like to take on the projects that no one else wants to touch. Why? Because you generally get more rope and any level of success will get you lots of visibility. That said you must do your homework because you don't want to hitch your star to an assignment that has absolutely no chance of succeeding.

Get your boss engaged in your success and you'll walk down the aisle to a more successful career. But remember not all bosses are prepared to support their people so you might have to divorce your current one and go looking for a new partner.

Here are the results from a recent workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com online ballot: Which best describes your career?

—My career is on the rise, 17.6 percent

—What career?, 37.8 percent

—My career is stuck in neutral, 44.4 percent

(Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded.com.*)*

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

How to polish your 'meta message'

By Kevin Donlin

YOUR job search could be in deep trouble... and you may not even know it. All because you're sending a negative meta message.

What message, you ask?

The term "meta message" is a marketing concept referring to the overall impression you give when communicating with others. It's the "vibe" that extends beyond (meta) what you say (your message).

Here's an example.

You're sitting across from a prospective employer during a job interview. You say: "I'm really eager to be a part of your company, Mr. Jones. My five years of experience and training give me the tools to succeed as a sales rep for you."

On the face of it, that sounds like a convincing message.

But if you're saying this with spinach in your teeth, a razor cut on your chin and wearing socks that don't match, here's your meta message: "I'm not really that eager to join your company because I couldn't find time to groom myself properly. If you let me anywhere near your clients, you'll be making a big mistake."

That's just one example of how a botched meta message can ruin an otherwise favorable impression. To avoid this and keep your career on track, it's crucial that you carefully analyze every part of your job search campaign.

Here's a list of areas to focus on, based on my experience helping more than 2,000 clients since 1996.

Resumé. Make sure yours is concise, clear and convincing. Use high-quality stationery to present the best possible meta message here. I recommend laser printing your resumé on ivory-colored paper, too.

E-mail address. The address you use on your resumé must look professional. If your current handle is "iluvbeer@party-time.com," consider changing it to "SMJohnson@hotmail.com" or something similar.

Answering machine. Make sure your outgoing message is brief and to the point. That means no laughing, loud music or dogs barking in the background. (Unfortunately, I've heard each of these on clients' messages.)

Personal grooming. Comb your hair neatly every day, to prepare for that one day when it has to be perfect. Clean and press your clothes, too. And never eat spinach salad before a job interview.

Your meta message speaks volumes about you. Make sure yours says: "Hire me. You won't be sorry."

(Kevin Donlin is president of Guaranteed Resumés. Since 1996, he and his writers have provided resumés, cover letters and online job-search assistance to clients on five continents. For more information, visit www.g-resumes.com/book.htm.)

ILLUSTRATION BY LA MISTADES

'I am enjoying my stay in this country!'

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice

FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I RECEIVED half a dozen letters from people overseas wanting to retire in the Philippines. They read the recent article on "I want to retire in the Philippines." A reader wanted to know which communities I would recommend for them to reside and buy properties. Personally, I don't think it is prudent to be publicly endorsing communities. Some real estate companies have approached me to promote their properties. What I want to do is to pass on information without endorsements. I also want to keep e-mail addresses of readers confidential.

I received two interesting letters supporting my article encouraging a reader to pursue his dream of retiring in this country. Here is the first one. Judge for yourself. Thank you for volunteering to be part of this on-going conversation.

"After reading your article about a family who is thinking of residing in the Philippines after retirement, I felt obliged to share my wonderful experiences. It may be a different situation but I thought that there is a similarity in my and the writer's predicament way back when I was considering the same idea.

"I was 53 years old when I retired. I did not want to go back to work after retirement so my wife (after relentless convincing, for she did not want to leave our young grandchildren) agreed to go back to the Philippines and reside in Sariaya, Quezon where we were both born. We had the same fears then. It was 1999 and the economic and peace and order situation was not any better than it is today.

"But one thing that gave us the courage in considering that move was that we have our relatives—a couple of our brothers and a sister in Laguna. My wife has relatives there too. We had lots of friends and past school mates, although I knew it would not be easy to reintroduce ourselves to them for we had been away for more than 35 years.

"You can't hide if you are a *balikbayan* in your hometown. Lots of solicitors, fundraisers, visitors, relatives, etc. come to see you. But we did not look at them as a problem. Instead, we considered their presence as one way of reintroducing ourselves back to our *kababayans*. And we were not mistaken.

"We have been here 14 years and enjoy very much our lives. We visit our children and grandchildren every two years and when there are occasions. We tried to go into small business ventures but did not succeed. We found out that our business orientation (after living more than 20 years in the US) is far different from our folks here.

"Presently, I am the chairman of the Municipal Scouting Committee, BSP, a position I enjoy for more than 13 years now and a member of the board in the Quezon Council, BSP. I have been the vice chairman of the Parish Council, Philippine Independent Church, in our town, president of the Magandahan Club, a local social and civic group, past president and founder of our Home Owners Association; was vice president in the Municipal Tourism Council. I was a member of the Municipal Peace and Order Council and other organizations. My wife is active in the local Girl Scouts District Committee and in church organizations.

"My children who have their families in California and my wife who has always been with me keep asking when we will go back to the States. My answer has always been the same, 'pretty soon.'

"For now, I am enjoying my stay here in the Philippines too much to seriously entertain that question. With the pension one is getting no matter whether how small or how big, it is multiplied 55 times. And with the special kind of treatment you get from your home folks, who would think of leaving the Philippines?" — RQS

Your work is not your kids' enemy

WORKING MOM

Gina Abuyuan-Llanes

THE LAPTOP is in my mom's house, which is why I'm sitting on the floor, writing this in longhand. My daughter is in front of me, coloring a picture of Snoopy and Woodstock. Her hair falls over her face, her mouth is half-open. She sighs with the effort of her pending masterpiece, which I know she'll sign and dedicate to me and her brothers. She knows it's writing time for me—a very serious time, not one to be taken lightly—so before I even start, she anticipates the drill: "Mommy? So you're going to write? I have to keep quiet and talk only if it's important?" Yup, I say. That's the way it goes. "But what will I wear tomorrow with my skirt? Bettina, Dominique, all the girls will be wearing skirts," she pursues. So much for the drill.

This is the way things have been, even before she understood what I did for a living. When she was three, I went freelance, and it was normal for her to see me glued to my computer at home, oblivious to the world, and setting down the rule: Silence in the room while I'm writing. The connection was also established: If I don't get to write, I don't get paid. If I don't get paid, there's no food on the table, no house to live in, no trips to the arcade, no nice new shoes. More important, writing kept me happy. It kept me alive—therefore, it kept her (and eventually, Marco and Mateo)—alive and happy, too.

Word smart

Simone has seen how much joy writing and my job gives me, that she once made a poster in school. Drawn on blue paper, it's a picture of a woman at a computer, clacking away. The head reads: "When I grow up, I want to be a writer!" Then, the subhead: "I am Word Smart!" (She goes to Multiple Intelligence, a school that goes by the framework of educating by the eight intelligences). Every time a colleague drops by my cubicle, they comment, aghast: "Does Simone know what she's talking about?!" or "Do you tell your daughter that this job pays (bleep)?!" or a resounding "Nooooo...!!!"

No, I don't need to tell her what a hard job it is, how demanding and pressure-filled it can get. She sees it firsthand—the late nights, the strung out days when my mind is drifting off to the land of sell-thrus and coverlines, the continuous texts and phone calls that sometimes come and leave me on the edge.

But she sees how much I love it too. How I turn the pages of the magazine over and give her the stories behind the stories; how I love to surround myself with books and magazines and call it "studying" (how can studying seem like so much fun?!); how, at my age, I still jump up and do a little dance when I know I've got a good story in my hands, to assign, to write, or to submit ("Mommy, you're 32 na and you're still so silly!").

This is probably the best thing my being a working mom has taught her: Work need not be the enemy. It can be her ally in keeping Mommy happy, as well. And the lessons she sees by my showing—not merely telling—are priceless: the harder you work at something, the more you'll cherish it; persistence is the secret to success; and the high of accomplishment, of ownership, of a job well done, can do more than just make you feel good—it builds up the spirit and reminds you to be grateful to God for allowing you to achieve such.

Happy at work

I've tried compartmentalizing my work and family life in the past, but found out—especially with my kind of job—that you can never really make a clean split. Both are a part of me, crossing over into one another, what I learn from one, I apply in the other. They are symbiotic worlds, and I am the conduit from which each receives their nurturing.

My daughter's gone to sleep now. I'm putting my pen down in a few minutes to go to sleep as well. Then I'll hug my Simone, and thank God once again for giving me such a wonderful, understanding little girl, who allows me to love my job—because no matter what, she is certain and calm in her heart that she and her brothers are number one; that even if it's writing time, she can still sneak in a question or two. Even if it's not "important."

(Gina Abuyuan-Llanes is editor in chief of Working Mom magazine. For more ways on how to achieve work-life balance, get the latest issue of Working Mom, with Donita Rose and baby JP on the cover. Feedback is welcome at gina_llanes@abs.-pinoycentral.com.*)*

Give your PC enough attention for more productivity

By Candy G. Villanueva and David A. Cuenco

WHAT if one day you booted up your PC and the monitor blinks with the three dreaded words—"Error Loading OS." Bad news-your hard disk just crashed. Although it is one of the most frightening catastrophes that could ever happen to any computer-dependent individual, it's also not highly unlikely. It could happen to anyone.

For most working people, their PC is their life. If I could get a peso for every reader nodding in agreement right now, I would have enough money to take a permanent vacation and get a new computer. The computer is where we store most of our life's work. It contains the database of our network. It's our personal assistant. Our word processor. Our journal. For some, it's even a photo album and a music or video player. That's why it's important that we maintain our computer and take good care of it. Some are lucky to have maintenance people attending to their desktops in the office. But for the rest of the population who has computers at home or work at home, it's time to give your PC some attention.

It's the New Year. It's time to start right. You've cleaned out your closets anyway; why not clean up your computer? And when we say clean up we don't mean getting a rag and rubbing your mouse clean till it shines. Although that wouldn't be a bad idea either. We're talking about backup, defragmenting and disk cleanup. These may seem like basic stuff but it's surprising how many people are clueless on this area. Others just don't realize the importance of computer maintenance while the rest fear that it's too complicated. Contrary to popular belief, computer maintenance is not for geeks with computer degrees alone. It's for every individual who owns a computer.

Backup

Most people who have adapted a regular backup routine only did after their hard disk crashed along with their whole life's worth of work. Don't wait for that to happen. If you do it on a regular basis, it'll be quick and easy and you'll be able to sleep better at night knowing the digital photos of your wedding and your client database are safe from the failures of technology.

Ed Bott, Microsoft Press author, says it is always easier to backup files if they're in order. This simply means organizing your files where they are easily locatable. If you're running on Windows XP, then you're lucky. Windows XP comes with its own backup program. The Windows Backup utility comes with a user-friendly Backup or Restore Wizard that will do all the hard work for you. The wizard will ask you which specific files you want copied. "You might be tempted to click 'All information on this computer' so that you can back up every bit of data on your computer. Think twice before choosing this option, however. If you've installed a slew of software, your backup could add up to many gigabytes," warns Bott.

After deciding on which files and folders to back up, the next issue to tackle is where to store your backup files. Your options are wide in range. You can choose to store your backup in a separate partition from where you usually save your files. If all your data is in drive C, you can store backup in drive D. However, if your hard disk crashes, then you've got yourself a big problem. The best option is to store backup in a removable drive or media. You may want to constantly save contents from drive D to a CD.

If you do not have a CD-RW drive, consider an external hard disk drive or a USB thumb drive or storage device. USB storage devices in particular are relatively cheap and can store between 100 to 250 megabytes (MB). Then of course there's the floppy disk. But really, who uses the floppy drive? To preserve your life's worth of work, you might need dozens of floppy disks. It's not a happy prospect for those who store a lot of digital photos and videos. If you have files bigger than 700MB, you can either zip them into multiple disks or just burn them to a DVD. A recordable DVD can store up to 4.7 Gigabytes.

According to Bott, make the backup process a regular routine. He suggests doing it once a week. If you're having enough trouble remembering your dentist appointments, then let Windows do the scheduling for you. The Backup Wizard comes with a Schedule Job function to set up a regular automatic backup schedule.

If you're running on a Mac computer or other operating systems aside from Windows 98, 2000 or XP you can do backup by simply copying the contents of your folder from one drive to another storage media. You could also look into other backup utilities like the Outback Plus 4 or Microsoft Outlook's backup utility.

Disk cleanup

Keep your feather dusters, disk cleanup only requires a few clicks of the mouse. Unknown to you, the junk that your computer accumulates constantly is unimaginable. Especially if you're regularly connected to the Internet. Junk files also manifest if you don't let windows shut down properly or if your computer hangs Cleaning your drive free of unnecessary files can save you a lot of free space. Deleting a file doesn't necessarily mean that you've gotten rid of it completely. Deleted files go to the Recycle Bin just in case you change your mind or accidentally delete tomorrow's client presentation. Disk CleanUp deletes the files in your Recycle Bin and temporary files in the Windows system folders. The utility allows you to view the files that are to be taken out of the system. If you are running out of disk space, you may opt to consider uninstalling unused applications, games and useless programs from your computer. You can do that by accessing the Windows Control Panel and then clicking on the Add/Remove Programs icon.

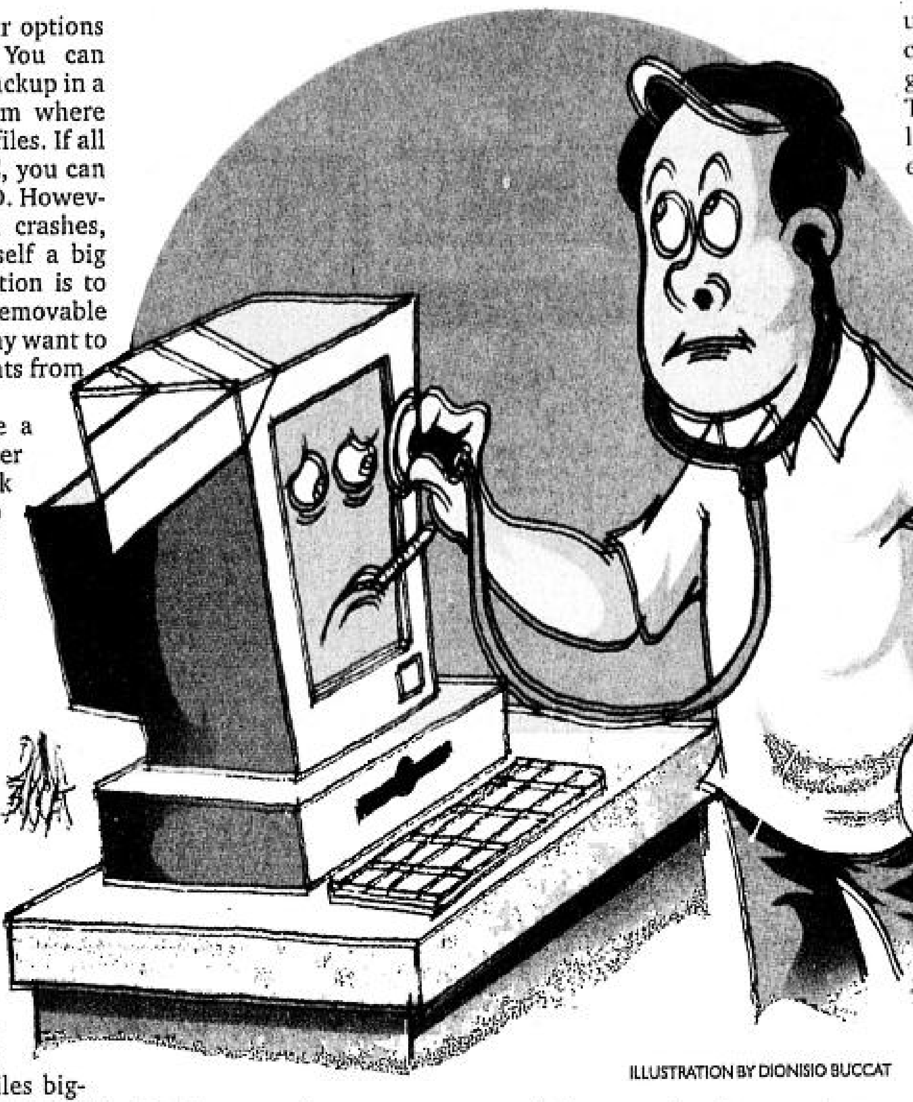


ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Defragment

Ever wonder why it sometimes takes forever to open a file? It's actually not the opening process that's causing the delay, it's the locating process. Sometimes, files or folders are split up into many parts in the hard disk. Defragging puts the data in your PC in sequential order. This way, when you access a file, the system can locate it right away. Another good reason for defragmenting is the fact that creating new folders or files can take longer when the free spaces in the drive are scattered. Failed CD writes are also often a product of disk fragmentation.

It's not as complicated as it sounds. Windows' System Tools comes with a disk defragmenter utility. The disk defragmenter under the System Tools option can be found under the Programs and Accessories menu. The utility will allow you to analyze how much fragmentation exists in your drive. After analysis, the system will report whether you need to proceed with defragmentation or not. Defragment often especially when you delete a large number of files or folders.

For Mac users, the system usually comes with a Disk Directory Corruption facility. However, it requires the use of Unix commands which is pretty complicated for the average user. Www.macworld.com clues in users on routine maintenance for their computers. A third-party defrag utility called iDefrag is available online.

Virus check

Update your anti-virus software often. Computer viruses breed and propagate faster than meningococcemia. Just when you think you have all the viruses covered in the alphabet, a new one is developed. There are several sites that offer free anti-virus systems. Make sure your software has a virus signature update. www.grisoft.com offers a good anti-virus software for free. If you don't want to be bothered with the installation and constant updates, http://housecall.trendmicro.com gives online virus scan for free.

Scandisk

Hard disk drives, despite the brand, will develop bad sectors over the years. A full surface scan of your drive will reveal the bad sectors. Bad sectors can ruin your files. Mark these culprits so your computer will not write on these sectors. To access the scandisk tool, click My Computer then right click on a drive. Choose Properties then the Tools tab and select Error-checking. Through this utility, scan and attempt recovery of bad sectors. The whole process may take time so keep a movie handy for company. We recommend a scandisk routine every quarter. If you encounter several bad sectors, consider upgrading to a new hard drive.

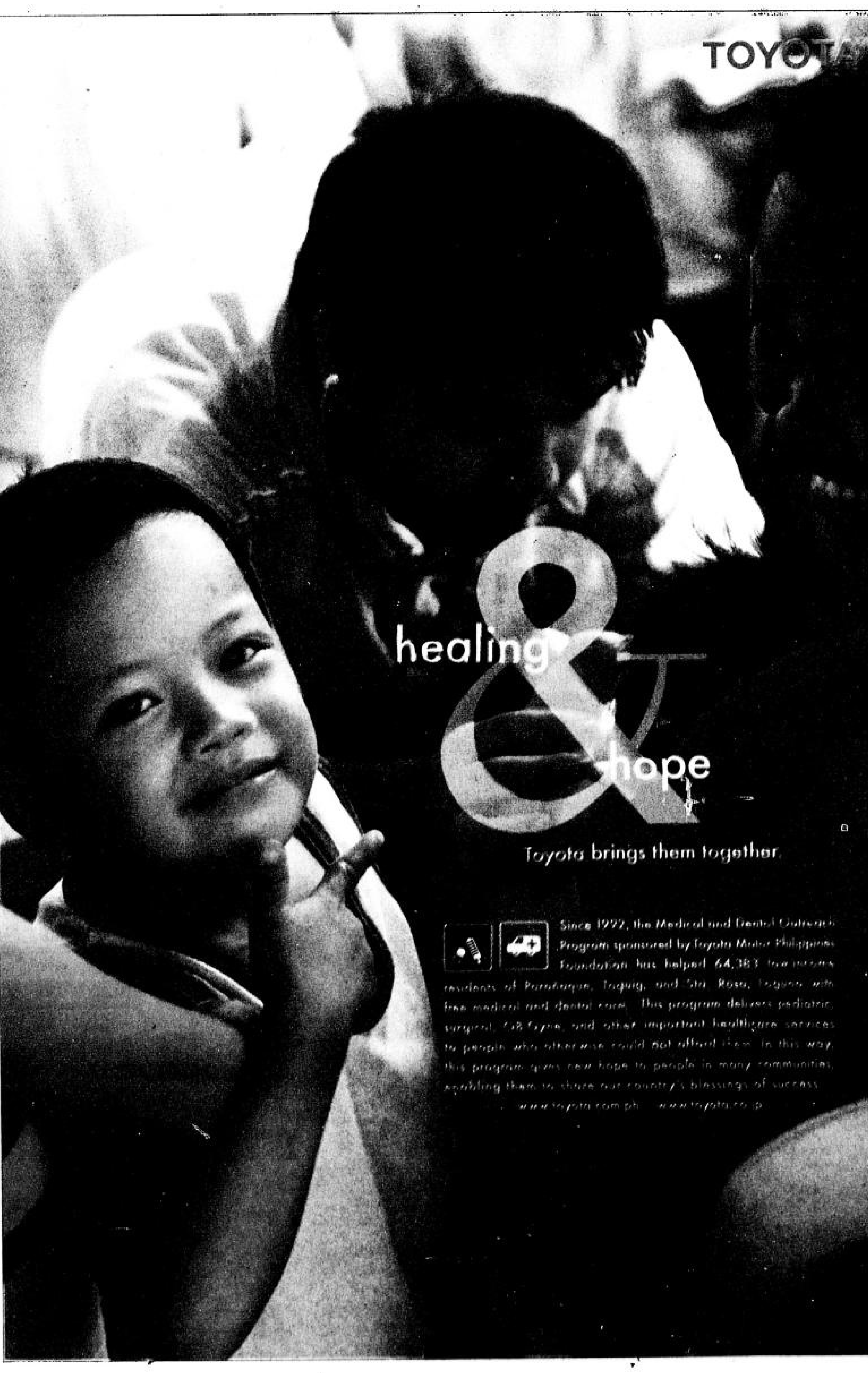
Maintenance software

If you're one of the few who actually bought a non-pirated operating system (OS) installer, it would pay to take advantage of the download updates. Downloading updates will reduce the number of bugs and security vulnerabilities of your OS. Check http://windowsupdate.microsoft.com for windows updates.

Www.majorgeeks.com offers free software that can help you maintain your PC. If you prefer the real deal and want everything taken care of, you might want to invest on the Symantec Norton Systemworks. Systemworks will do everything for you from Scan disk, defragmenting, backup and virus check. Mac users don't fret; www.macfixit.com's got you covered. You can also look up www.philmag.org or www.pinoymac.org.

Be part of People at Work

WOULD you like to be part of a family that can help you in your career growth and development? Join the People at Work community where members support each other in the quest for a better career and life. People at Work columnists, writers and editorial staff will also be part of this group to lend you a helping hand. Working professionals, jobseekers, human resource executives and practitioners, managers, trainers, consultants and all others willing to share and help are welcome to join. Members will have access to updates and discounts on People at Work events, advice from People at Work columnists and writers and other members, chat schedules with members and "eyeball" events. To join, send your name, gender, c ivil status, age, contact number, e-mail address, company name and position title (if applicable) to peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph or fax to tel. no. (632) 938-2092 or text to 02-937-0376 from Mondays to Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



TOYOTA

Since 1992, the Medical and Dental Outreach Program sponsored by Toyota Motor Philippines Foundation has helped 64,383 low-income residents of Parañaque, Taguig, and Sta. Rosa, Laguna with free medical and dental care. This program delivers pediatric, surgical, OB Gyne, and other important healthcare services to people who otherwise could not afford them. In this way, this program gives new hope to people in many communities, enabling them to share our country's blessings of success.
www.toyota.com.ph www.toyota.co.jp

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 897-8425 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 897-8425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5224406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

RATES
P245 per column centimeter P75 per line
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays: 12:00 noon Day before publication
Sundays: 12:00 noon every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

MEDTECH Asap RSV Clinic Tandang Sora QC 924-9935

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

RAPID Tx VD-STD
Ex. SWEAT PIMPLES KELOID
ALLERGY WARTS SKIN PEEL
15 Annapolis Greenhills
Call 7276124 - 25 9am-7pm

VDSTD Skin Clinic Rapid Tx Comp Lab Tel. 8175071 Matrinco 2178 P. Tamo Makati

PERSONAL

MASSAGE

02-3233269 Male Factor

ADAM'S APPLE 3605724

AKHIN THAI MASGE 8347357 BGO, CBU, DVO, MLA, PLWN

AROMATHERAPHY 752-0018

ASK BELL MALE MASSEUR (0921)5364794

ASK JOHN MALE MASSEURS (0921)5364794

H'SOME ATHLETES 8327363

MALE MASSAGE
PINK
374-8480

MR. UNIVERSE SPA 1157 Quezon Ave. 410-1259

★ Mr BODY PHYSIQUE ★ 11A Kamias QC 4350978

MSGE M-F 09192714842 ANJO

RELAXING MASSAGE 8978214

THAI Msge Lic 0921-7569278

REFLEXOLOGY

Facial / Massage Ofc 534-4003

Edgar Reflex 7577863

★FEELS GOOD 4127758★

Jojo HMS 0920-8635511

•Wizard Massage 4213197•

TUTORIAL LESSONS

AmSpeak/Languages 8944311 7581916

HOUSEHOLD

EFFICIENT MAIDS
PROV'L & CITY ALL AROUND MAIDS SCREENED W/REF. NBI POL. CLEAR. 873-7055•873-5062•873-7057

Low Ofc fee Maids 4364931

NEWLY ARRIVED PROVINCIAL MAIDS MIDWIFE NURSE YAYA COOK LABA H'GIRL/BOY DRIVER SCREENED W/CLEAR. CALL "JOY" 872-2792•872-0265•873-5271

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

AA Maid Yaya w/NBI 4547542

A'A MAIDS & YAYA 4386920

ANGEL MAIDS 4213253

HI PAY MAID, YAYA 732-67-50

Direct Maid Yaya Driver 4214652

DIRECT MAIDS,YAYA, COOK 7289060

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-2971

IDEAL MAID YAYA 9849384

MAIDS w/ NBI Ref 4392490

NEED MAIDS 0915-5544777

BEST MAIDS 8294261

Trusted Maids Yaya Boy 7572089

Yaya, Cook H'maid 8957507

IVYLANA MAIDS 9268984 YAYA 4331431

LIPAT BAHAY

•731-6833•LIPAT

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

Cheap 9260424/09272207969

L-BAHAY 8383742/09208449984

P1200/TRIP 742-14-57

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LAST FEW UNITS LEFT!
SUNNY VILLAS
The Joy of Practical Living

YOUR DREAM CONDO, FOR AS LOW AS P5,303/MO.* THRU

Pearl St., Commonwealth Ave., East Fairview, QC

Just 10 minutes away from the Quezon City Elliptical Circle via Commonwealth Avenue and close to SM Fairview and Robinson's Big "R".

CHOOSE FROM NO DOWNPAYMENT OR LOW AMORTIZATION PLAN!

PHINMA PROPERTY HOLDINGS CORP. City Living Made Easy.

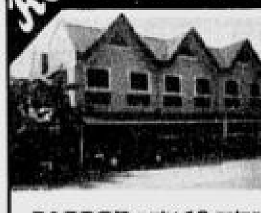
812-PPHC (7742) • 0917-812-PPHC (7742) • 0922-812-PPHC (7742)

LEAD BROKERS: REACH OUT REALTY: 983-1804
FORTE REALTY: 630-0372 • CONCORDE REALTY: 419-9490
WELCOME REALTY: 413-3313 • BOOMLAND REALTY: 817-9650

CONDO/TWNHSE

CAVITE

RSG GUEVENTHOMES



BACOOR only 10 mins from Baclaran!
as low as
P4,100/mo*
* Pag-IBIG Housing Loan

as low as P700T
Min. 15% D/P
15% 2nd REM
70% Balance thru In-House convertible to *Pag-IBIG Housing Loan

[illegible] Sales Inc.
531-0395 * 531-1384
(0920) RSG HOME
* (0920) 910 0000
Toll Free: 1-800-10 RSGHOME
www.guevent.com
other office available
Cainta, Baguio, QC

MANILA

BAYWATCH TOWER
M.H. Del Pilar St., Malate, Manila
(at the back of Chinese Embassy, Roxas Boulevard, Manila)

ENJOY THE MAGNIFICENT VIEW OF MANILA BAY
UNITS FOR SALE OR LEASE!
Furnished and Unfurnished
Pls. visit or call
5236640 / 5236630
AVAILABLE
Studio, 1, 2 and 3 BR
READY FOR OCCUPANCY

COMMERCIAL

PASIG

ORTIGAS FRONTING TEKTITE NICE RESTO/BAR/CAFE LOCK STOCKS = BARREL P1.5M T-8894796/5039/6475

COMML/RESDL

QUEZON CITY

•L635 cor lot BelAir Mktl
•L604 cor lot VLuna P20/m²
•L100 Proj 8 QC Installment
•L475 Cong Ave T9298376 DB

HOUSE & LOT

LAS PINAS

READY FOR OCCUPANCY
LAS PINAS or BACOOR
Only P5,000 to reserve
No loan requirement
• 873-59-49 • 874-0487 •

MAKATI

MKT NR AYALA BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/2 1/2tb/grge P3.720M up 8903401 loc 34

MARIKINA

Bnew 4BR 3TB 2.6M 9487112

RIZAL

Brookside Cainta 278m² 4br 2tb wGrge 09173600948 • 09178870627

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

CAVITE

HOUSE & LOT

BULACAN

P 1,799/MO
KAYANG-KAYA ANG HULOG SA PANGARAP MONG BAHAY
30 MINS FROM QC
25 MINS FROM VALENZUELA
PLR - 475-22-57
BOB - 0921-271-1102
BENG - 0920-261-7447
PERLA - 0917-271-2115

BULACAN

STA. MARIA 225T 9372688

STA. MARIA 225T 9372688

LAGUNA

BINAN P400T/mo 5201792

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.2M C5 Nr The Fort 12T/mo. or 4Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mktl 0917-8313226

1.3M Nr D Fort 2-4br RFO Bnew Comp. Amenities No DP 10T/mo 0% Int 5yrs Flex Terms 0927-4630047

EXEC. RESDL CONDO P1.4M&Up, 2BR-4BR 10%DP to move-in, 15mins. to Makati 10mins. to Global City, or in Ortigas, Inquire Now! LITO: 0918-5251365 • 873-6426

RENT 2 OWN 10K 2br Nr Mktl 0922-8086855

RENT TO OWN Condo 2-4br 12T Nr D Fort / Market! 0917-7469270 / 0920-7761824

ROCKWELL RIZAL TOWER 297 SQM 3 BEDROOMS (all ensuite) DESIGNER CONDO 3 PARKING. MAID'S. FURNISHED OR UNFURNISHED CONTACT GLORIA AT 0920-9071230 OR 899-3211

MANDALUYONG

CONDO,BNEW, RFO 09192189817

West GH 34-6610 Jojo

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

PASIG

RENT TO OWN!
CONDO nr. Fort & Makati
2-4BR Fully Secured
15K monthly & 45K DP
Anne • (0920) 236-0929

QUEZON CITY

7.5M 1 Lafayet FA119sq.m 1Prk Call 634-1212

CUBAO P1.5M Flexible Terms Offsetting OK 09178348080

Luxurious Low 500T-12M Furn 9415641/0927-3925928

SCT TUAZON 2.3M 4163161

LOT

KALOOCAN

420m² P1.2M BALUBAD ST NOVALICHES 802-2912

LAS PINAS

PHILAM LA300/394@P7.5T/m² AL • 874-1465/0918-937-2571

MAKATI

McKinley Hills Global City P10M 634-1212

QUEZON CITY

DAPITAN Nr. BANAWE 1,600m² P26T 721-3127 / 712-1127

Exclusive Res'l Lot nr Ateneo/UP/Miriam 204m²@P8.5th 09189235216

KATIPUNAN EXT COM'L beside future Kenny Rogers 1,100m² & 451m²@P8.5th/m² 454-5867 / 0918- 9235216

Rd 20 Proj. 8, 1,418m²@ P14T/m² Proj 6 nr SM Nrth 267m²@3.6M Cong. Ave Ext. 451m²/412m²@9T/m² DBO. 0917-8997547 Jona

PROVINCIAL

RUSH SALE!!! Hilltop Subd Cabanatuan City 2Adjcnt lots nr Doctors hosp & NE Pacific Mall 315sqm and 319sqm 0919-6308089/0920-9202508

OTHER PROVINCIAL

BAGUIO BOKAWAN RD 428 SQM 14M 0465156420 09173730799 CECIL

BATANGAS

(12)400-700M² LOT IN SANTOMAS 30MSOUTH OF ALABANG NICE VW 1KM FR HWY P775M² CASH / TERMS TEX09184204333/T0437785373

LAGUNA

548sqm West Grove Ayala Sta Rosa Jun 0917-7182116

VARIED AREAS

• BALIWAG 320m² rel lot
CALOOCAN 3lots 2000m²
Each Separately Titled
6000m² total agri lot
Make Offer (02)9309760

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

MANDALUYONG

Nr. Boni 3BR 2TB 2CG 1Mds Rm FF 26Tneg 0918-0421534

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

MAKATI

DASMA/SANLO/BEL-AIR/URDA 4-5BRS DEN POOL P80-160T/MO T-8894796/5039/6475

QUEZON CITY

2BR nr FEU Hosp 9T 9315151

2BR w/grge 12Zinnia Roxas Dist. 9.5 /mo 931-5151 0917-8514724

6BR 3TB 43Malboro Fview 25T 931-5151 0917-8514724

Grnmeadows Renov 3BR Den big grdn Bnew 4TB 4121825

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

Buendia Stu FF P7.5T 929-9835

MANILA

ASTRAL TOWER front PGH 1BR P17T/mo. 0921-5046978

PASIG

Ortigas Ctr 1BR ff 23T 4121825

QUEZON CITY

T'HSE 4BR 4TB w/Attic 2CGrg Bellevue Subd. nr. Grace Christian H.S. Ofc Hr 374-8832

APARTMENT

MAKATI

2BR up/down stng H²0 near City Hall P8.5K onth call 7577442

MANILA

561-0960 0920-4136412 AJ 5,500 - 7,000 New Built House

QUEZON CITY

34 YALE CUBAO 9310449

BNEW studio PROJ.2 4342804 / 0919-2876841

WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

BICUTAN OFFICE WAREHOUSE 700 SQM P65K 5473472/71

ROOM & BOARD

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

Mkt M/F Day/Mon Nice 8979417

Nr Chin. Gen Mla 7836781

P200! Sucat Pque 8275345

BEDSPACE

Bed / Office Space For Rent Libertad St Manda City 5349895

BUSINESS RENTAL

30m² UN Ave Ermita 5211114

AYALA AVE 8181696/7586

CUBAO Shp 500m² 25T 7257342

SHARE PROJ4 2STY OFFICE P3K T4392827 09197213878

Dental Clinic For Sale/Lease Rm224 Atrium Bldg Makati •811-4071/823-6047•

RESORT LEASE/ RENT

Pansol Hot Spring priv 7767507

LOAN & MORTGAGE

BUSINES DOCTOR 524-3197

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

Francisco Gold EDSA nr 7-11 Kamias 73m²+1cprk 12T all-in4121625

MALATE MLA 526-8048/49

Orient Sq Ortg Ctr145m² 4121825

The PHILIPPINE ELECTRICITY MARKET CORPORATION (PEMC) is a non-profit, private/public partnership tasked to implement and govern the Philippine WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY SPOT MARKET (WESM). The WESM will be the venue for the competitive and transparent trading of electricity.

The restructuring and deregulation of the Philippine electricity industry is a great challenge and we are seeking qualified individuals who are highly-motivated and have a deep sense of integrity and professionalism for the following CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

SHIFT MANAGER

B.S. Engineering (preferred) or Management/Economics with at least 5 years experience or Post graduate in Engineering or Economics with at least 3 years experience in Transmission and Generation Operations / Planning. Relevant experience in Electricity Markets and/or knowledge in conducting load flow studies is strongly preferred but not required. The ideal candidate will also be adequately familiar with the Luzon, Visayas or Mindanao power systems and demonstrate proficiency in the use of text editing, spreadsheet and Database Software.

SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATOR

B.S. Accounting, Finance, Economics or any related field with at least 3 years relevant experience (or Post Graduate with 2 years relevant experience) preferably with knowledge of the electricity industry and a strong finance background.

NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR

B.S. Computer Science or Engineering with at least 3 years work experience or Post graduate with at least 2 years relevant experience in installation, configuration, operation and maintenance of inter-network operating systems of data communications equipment. Successful candidates will have had work experience in the implementation of network security and have had related experience in network system disaster and recovery procedures.

ACCOUNT OFFICER

B.S. in any related course with at least 3 years related work experience (or Post Graduate with at least 2 years relevant experience) preferably with a working knowledge of the electricity industry and a finance and accounting background.

DATA COMMUNICATIONS ENGINEER

B.S. Computer Science or Engineering (B.S. ECE), with at least 3 years work experience (or Post Graduate with at least 2 years relevant experience) in operations and maintenance of voice/data communications systems, Linux/MS Windows based desktop PC's and work stations, technical and business related commercial or in-house developed software, ERP size applications, computer systems disaster and recovery procedures.

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR

B.S. Computer Science or Engineering with at least 3 years work experience (or Post Graduate with at least 2 years relevant experience) in administering and monitoring server operating systems and ensuring security and proper integration of multiple sites, operation and maintenance of multi-tier heterogeneous mid-range UNIX-based and/or mainframe computer systems and installation, configuration and maintenance of Linux/MS Windows operating systems and in computer disaster and recovery procedures.

SOFTWARE ENGINEER

B.S. Computer Science or Engineering with 3 years work experience (or Post Graduate course with at least 2 years relevant experience) in programming procedures and languages for client/server and web environment, developing dynamic web applications, web publishing and server administration, implementing and troubleshooting application, changes and modifications, determining computer problems and coordinate hardware and/or software solutions, computer flowcharts and program logic formulation, operations maintenance of multi-tier heterogeneous mid-range UNIX-based and/or mainframe computer systems.

MARKET OPERATOR

B.S. Engineering with at least 3 years experience (or Post Graduate with at least 2 years relevant experience) in power transmission and generation. Candidates with experience related to Electricity Markets, literate in computer operation and documentation software tools, and with excellent oral and written communication skills are strongly preferred.

PROGRAMMER

Vocational Computer course with at least 3 years relevant experience (or college degree with 1 year relevant experience) in programming procedures and programming languages for client/server and web environment, experience in implementing and troubleshooting application changes and modifications, determining computer problems and coordinate hardware and/or software solutions, experience in computer flow charts and program logic formulation.

IS/IT TECHNICIAN

Vocational Computer course with at least 3 years relevant experience (or college degree with 2 year relevant experience) in general maintenance and installation of computer and voice/data communication systems. Experience in using office automation software applications (MS Office, AutoCad etc.) a plus.

ACCOUNTANT - Finance Group

C.P.A., B.S. Degree in Business Administration major in Accounting with at least 3-years experience in financial statement preparation and analysis and related work (or Post Graduate with at least 2 years relevant experience). Computer literate, able to work with minimum supervision, has knowledge of the latest BIR rulings and the updated statements of Accounting Standards Council (ASC) and willing to work beyond the regular working hours.

LEGAL ASSISTANT

Degree in any college course with at least 2 year work experience as stenographer and legal secretary. The successful candidate must possess good interpersonal skills and be able to work with minimum supervision.

Successful candidates can expect a fulfilling career and advancement opportunities in a dynamic work environment

Interested applicants may send their application letter (state position/s applied for), curriculum vitae, diploma, transcript of records and relevant supporting documents to:

Rodulfo M. Alfafara
Department Manager
or email: rmalfafara@wesm.ph
Administrative Services Department
9th Floor Robinson's Equitable Tower Ortigas Center Pasig City 1600

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

MAKATI CONDO SPECIALIST Many Choices 0918-9392979

PACIFIC PLAZA SPECIALIST Furn / Unfurn 0918-9392979

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

MITSUBISHI

GLXI 95' RUSH SALE GOOD CONDITON FLOADED 2727813

TOYOTA

Toyota-XL 95 model super kinis good condition 0921-4702888

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Pajero Land Cruiser Surf Safari Trooper Terrano Town-Lite-Hi Ace Delica Serena Vanette Space Gear Elf Canter etc. Finance T-In 9120647 / 09178342020

TRADING COMPANY
looking for an

ACCOUNTING STAFF

- ☐ Female, Single, Not over 28 years old, Highly motivated, Pleasing personality
- ☐ BS Accounting, Computer literate (MS Excel, MS Word), Good oral and written communication skills, good analytical and problem solving skills
- ☐ Bookkeeping skills, mastery in the preparation of Financial Reports, and Cost Accounting skills will be an advantage

Qualified candidates may send their application letter together with their resumé, transcript of records and recent 2x2 colored picture to:

THE GENERAL MANAGER
P.O. BOX 2172 MAKATI CENTRAL POST OFFICE
1261 MAKATI CITY

A WELL-ESTABLISHED AGENCY OPERATING NATIONWIDE NEEDS:

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

- Male
- Must be a Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- Minimum of two (2) years experience in supervisory functions.
- Well-versed in all aspects of accounting documents, methods, procedures, and reporting requirements.
- Knowledgeable in taxation including, but not limited to income tax, value added tax and local taxes.
- Efficient with pertinent computer software and applications.

Qualified applicants may apply in person or in writing with recent photo and DESIRED SALARY to:

CATALINA SECURITY AGENCY
626 G. ARANETA AVE., QUEZON CITY
(In front of Funeraria Paz)
or
To: The Personnel Manager
P.O. Box 1295, Manila

POEA
24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144 • 722-1155

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

Sunflower Transport Hi-Ace Coaster 534-4003, 0919-3220971

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

STAREX'04 MB100 9483535

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

ABC RENT A CAR
HI-ACE • STAREX
L300 • CRV • REVO
HONDA • VIOS • ALTIS • LYNX • CRLA
MLA: 536-8822 • 303-9789
Q.C.: 426-2278 • 426-4084

CAR LOAN

1.5% Car Loan 5344441

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/out taking car 5315577

2% w/out taking car 6567685

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

PUYAT AMBASADOR TYPE Complete Like New 6310213/33

BUY/SELL

College Plans 0917-7939632

PETS

5M / 5F Dalmatian champline w/ papers 09273995937 Allan

Doberman Pups 6Wks F-7.5 M-7 PCCI Reg. Grandparents Champ 6716014

ROTTWEILER For Sale 2 mo. champ line with red marks complete shots and papers. Pls call 7426537 or 0917-5213323

WANTED TO BUY

A NAME YOU CAN TRUST!
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
& Other Swiss Watches
DIAMONDS / JEWELRY
Hi-Appraisal/Fast Cash
Repair/Polish Any Watch
T#804-0484 • 834-2886

"PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE"
LOW 5% INTEREST
BUY • SELL • PAWN
SWISS WATCHES
AGENCIA de MAKATI-4587017
SECONDO AYALA CENTER-8940282
OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY

RA Form No. 10.1 (LCRO)

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Rizal
Municipality of Cainta

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. Act No. 9048, notice is hereby served to the public that Marjorie Cuenca Singh has filed with this Office a petition for change of name from Kulwindeer Kuar to Kulwinder Kaur in the birth certificate of Kulwindeer Kuar Singh who was born on March 26, 1998 at Cainta, Rizal and whose parents are Hardeep Singh and Marjorie L. Cuenca.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than January 23, 2005.

(Sgd.) RIZALINO P. TIMBOL
Municipal Civil Registrar

(PDI - Jan. 19 & 26, 2005)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

WE BUY
JEWELRY, DIAMONDS
ROLEX, PAWNTICKETS
& Other Swiss Watches Fast Cash
09163422208 • 09155547779

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
0917-8142309 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

MEYCAUAYAN-FILIPINAS Pawnshop, Aliw Complex, Calvario, Meyc. Bulacan. All unredeemed pledges of JULY 2004 will be auctioned on JAN. 22, 8:30 am. - Lanuza & Sons-Auctioneer.
(PDI - JANUARY 19, 2005)

MUNOZ-FILIPINAS PAWNSHOP, Roosevelt Ave., Katipunan, Diliman, Quezon City. All unredeemed pledges of AUG 2004 will be auctioned on JAN 22, 2:00 PM. - Lanuza & Sons - Auctioneer.
(PDI - JANUARY 19, 2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given the loss of 15772 UBP 4 shares with Cert Nos. 097063 / 14503 / 73375 / 79449 issued to RENE R. CRUZ. If no contest receive new certificate will be issued
(PDI - Jan. 12, 19 & 26, 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

HARD TIMES? Earn 5T/day Minimal Invsm't 0915-6058207

RTW Consign 09167940002

WANTED TO BUY

NOVALICHES, QUEZON CITY & MARIKINA
Commercial near Business District
Vacant Lot or with Old Structure
One (1) Hectare more or less.
Tels: 818-2781 / 751-5472
Cell.: 0919-6745430

WANTED TO BUY

DEFECT TV/COMPO 7325865

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

CAREGIVER T5280747

DEPED-MARIKINA CITY OSEC DECSB SST1-30673 30665 30664 30663 36089 LET PBET PASSER

EXTRA INCOME ASIAN NO. 1 IN BUSS PLS call or text 0921-4702888

REAL ESTATE AGENT with experinece and contact tel. 9280512 / 09178941622 Lopez

URGENT HIRING! San Mateo Training Manager 915-1390

WASHINGTON TUTORIAL CENTER INC NEEDS TEACHERS ASAP CALL • 8204950 •

Where you find the best.
VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com
JOB Market ONLINE

Karangalan Conference/ Festival at the CCP

OVER two dozen globally and national renowned Filipino leaders, artists and achievers will speak and perform at the First National Conference and Festival on Karangalan, under the theme, "Mobilizing Excellence for Creating a Visionary Philippines", to be held from Jan. 21 to 23, at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP). The Karangalan National Conference and Festival will tackle the following themes and topics: "Challenges Facing the Philippines, Can the Philippines Handle Globalization", "Toxic Futures-Nature's Revenge", "Is There A Future for Our Country?", "The OFW Phenomenon and the Youth", "The Dawn of Another Philippines", "Culture and Integral Sustainable Development", "The Role of the Youth in Building a Visionary Philippines", "Constructing the City of the Future", "Powering the Philippine Future with the Sun and Renewable Energies", "Educating Filipinos for Creating a Better Nation", "Peaceful Societal Transformation", "Strategic Governance", "The Role of Business in Nation-Building and Building a Visionary Philippines". Karangalan will highlight the existence of and gather support for another, much better, more exciting Philippines emerging in our midst today. This is the Philippines of moral strength, courage, vision, initiative, compassion, integrity, honesty, political will, socially-oriented businesses, artistic competence, social entrepreneurship, achievement and excellence. For more information, please contact Nicanor Perlas at tel. nos. 6871309, 6871312 or 6877482.

AUCTION

www.henrybutcher.com

SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION

**At.: Henry Butcher Auction Center - c/o Hilon Compound,
Bo. Mayapa, Canlubang, Laguna
On: Tuesday 25th January 2005 - 10:30am Sharp**

ELECTRICALS; VALVES & FITTINGS; POWER TOOLS/HAND TOOLS; OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT; MISCELLANEOUS, ETC.

ELECTRICAL - ABB, FUJI, WESTINGHOUSE, MITSUBISHI High Capacity Circuit Breakers; MERLIN-GERIN Micro Circuit Breakers; BITICINO Socket Outlets; Switches; Housings; Capacitors; High Tension Wires; Telecommunication Cables; Dry Type Transformers; Mini Transformers
VALVES & FITTINGS - SPIRAX SARCO Motorized Valves; Wye Strainers; Stainless Elbows & Tees; Large Cap. Gate Valves; Globe Valves; Fiber Glass Fittings
POWER TOOLS/HAND TOOLS - MAKINA Carving Machine; MAKITA Drill & Grinder Sets; BLACK & DECKER Electric Drills; BALDWIN Pipe Threaders; GREENFIELD Socket Wrench Sets; Pipe Wrenches; Vice Grips; Hacksaws; Bolt Cutters; Bottle Jacks; HIKOMA Manlifts
OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT - Steel Filing Cabinets; Steel Lockers; Wooden Office Tables; Computer Tables; Swivel Chairs; Wooden Cabinets
MISCELLANEOUS - PERKINS 90KVA Diesel Generator; HAKO Ride-on Floor Polisher; Industrial Blowers; TIGEAR Gear Motors; Air Compressors; Chain Blocks; Pull-down Accordion Doors; Pedestal Drills; Band Saws; King Size Bed Set; Lamp Shades; Airconditioners, etc.

On View: Monday 24th January 2005 - 9am to 5pm & morning of sale day
Refundable Deposit: Php20,000 (upon registration)
Please bring valid ID to be presented during registration

For further information please contact Carol Cosca at Tel: 049 831 6541
Email: carol.cosca@henrybutcher.com

GoIndustry Henry Butcher

GIA®

Thailand Campus

Learn about Gems & Jewelry

From the world's foremost authority in gemology
70+ year history of excellence in education
over 300,000 students worldwide

GIA Graduate Gemologist Diploma

The most recognized gemological credential

G.G. Program starts March 14, 2005

GIA Thailand Campus

Bisco Tower-12th Fl., 56/12 Sub Rd., Bangrak, Bangkok Thailand
Tel: (662) 237-9575 / 77 Fax; (662) 236-9829
giathai@ksc.th.com www.giathailand.com

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on January 26, 2005, 2:00 p.m., Auditorium of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE REAL ESTATE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
MANILA			
AM-MC-001	No. 38 Road 7, Project 6, Quezon City	403.7 m² residential lot (TCT No. N-234441) with bldg. & imp.	P 4,825,425.00
BATAAN			
	Sta. Monica Homes, Sitio Wiswis Camaya, Mariveles:	Residential lots with bldg. & imp.	
AM-ED-002	Lot - 7 & 10 Blk - 32	100 m² TCT No. T-229503 & T-229504	P 332,000.00
AM-ED-003	15 20	100 m² TCT No. T-229481	P 283,700.00
AM-ED-004	6 9	50 m² TCT No. T-229483	P 190,000.00
BATANGAS			
	Brgy. Lumbang, Calaca	Vacant Industrial lots:	
AM-JA-005a	Lot 26-A	97,314 m² TCT No. T-100654	P87,582,600.00
AM-JA-005b	Lot 26-B	30,448 m² TCT No. T-100653	P27,403,200.00
BULACAN			
AM-MC-006	Bo. Pungo, Calumpit, Bulacan	6,913 m² agricultural lot (TCT No. T-155594)	P 5,530,000.00
CABANATUAN			
	Vista Amor Subdivision, Bangad	Residential lots with bldg. & imp.:	
AM-MC-007	Blk. 2 Lot 45	100 m² TCT No. T-116963	P 411,500.00
AM-MC-008	2 7	100 m² TCT No. T-116962	P 375,000.00
AM-MC-009	1 7	100 m² TCT No. T-116961	P 353,300.00
AM-MC-010	1 16	100 m² TCT No. T-116960	P 353,300.00
CAVITE			
AM-PY-011	Lot 3 Blk. 9, Regino St., Prima Homes Bucandala III, Brgy. Alapan, Imus	41 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-103689) with bldg. & imp.	P 190,200.00
AM-PY-012	Lot 25 Blk. 11, Philhomes Ville I, Brgy. Toclong, Kawit	32 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-1087340) with bldg. & imp.	P 188,800.00
LAGUNA			
STR-001	Brgy. Caingin, Sta. Rosa	642 m² commercial/residential lot (TCT T-478025) with bldg. & imp.	P 1,969,600.00
	St. Joseph Village 6, Phase I Butong, Cabuyao	Residential lots with bldg. & imp.:	
AM-PY-013	Lot - 37 Blk - 5	80 m² TCT No. T-584443	P 490,300.00
AM-PY-014	9 3	40 m² TCT No. T-584430	P 201,800.00
AM-PY-015	9 14	40 m² TCT No. T-584431	P 200,000.00
AM-PY-016	12 8	40 m² TCT No. T-584429	P 200,000.00
MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL			
AM-PY-017	Ozamis-Oroquieta National Highway, Lapasan, Clarin	866 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-12935) with bldg. & imp.	P 316,300.00
QUEZON			
AM-CP-018	Morong, Sariaya	50,299 m² interior agricultural lot (TCT No. 392733)	P 1,257,500.00
RIZAL			
AM-PY-019	Lincoln Drive, Brgy. Mayamot, Antipolo	8 parcels residential lots (TCT No. 317013 to 317020) 5,029 m² with bldg. & imp	P 5,119,600.00
CHATTELS (sale on "as-is, where-is " basis)			
AM-CP-020 4,889,500.00	Serg's Compound, Ortigas Ave.,	One (1) unit Hydrostatic Five -Roll Refiner	P
	Cainta Rizal	Machine Registration 7896, "C&M" for chocolate masses, cream compounds.	
AM-MC-021	Bo. Umpucan, San Ildefonso, Bulacan	Various poultry equipment for three (3) breeder houses	P 1,467,000.00
AM-PY-022	DBP Depot, Doña Severina Compound Parañaque	One (1) unit 10-wheeler ISUZU delivery truck Model 10, PCI V-type	P 200,000.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the AMD-Acquired Assets, 2nd Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours; and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 892-1566/893-7172 or 818-9511 local 2218/2252 for Code starting with AM; and 818-9511 local 1428 or (049) 534-2821 for STR.

(PDI – Jan 18 & 19, 2005)

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

RUSH SALE
Office Condo Unit

Cityland Condominium 10 Tower 1
Unit 2414, 20th Floor
6815 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

Floor Area = 65.56 square meters

Please call or text
Ms. Jojo Punsal
0917-8332722

Synovate is the world's most dynamic and passionate global market intelligence company. We seek smart, curious and suitably qualified people for the following positions:

RESEARCHERS

(with at least one year working experience)

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

(with or without experience)

- computer literate
- committed to be trained in the relevant skills
- good communication and interpersonal skills
- attentive to details
- reliable and able to work to deadlines
- able to work under pressure and beyond normal working hours
- team player
- university degree

HR ASSISTANT

- 1-2 years experience in HR functions, preferably in a multi-national company
- must be well-versed in SSS, PhilHealth, Pag-ibig Fund, tax withholding procedures and reporting requirements
- adept at payroll preparation
- computer literate
- well organized and attentive to details
- has a sense of urgency and can work to deadlines
- able to work under pressure and beyond normal working hours
- team player
- good oral and written English
- good interpersonal skills
- university degree

This is an entry level position. Knowledge of Philippine labor laws and other facets of HR services is a plus factor and will be an advantage in promotion to the next level.

All positions carry competitive salaries, life insurance, healthcare scheme and other benefits. Please send CV and covering letter to herlyn.david@synovate.com

Synovate Inc.
1701 West Tower, Phil. Stock Exchange Center,
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Fax: 637-92-33
www.synovate.com

Curiosity has its rewards

synovate
Research reinvented

AUCTION

www.henrybutcher.com

On the instructions of an internationally renowned Semiconductor Packaging Company on their move to larger & more modern premises.

SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION

**At.: 1321 Apolinario St., Bangkal, Makati, Philippines
On: Saturday 22nd January 2005 - 10:30am**

ELECTRICALS; PUMPS; MOTORS; VALVES; STORAGE SYSTEMS; JEDEC TRAYS, ETC.

In over 700 lots including: -

ELECTRICAL - Control Panels; Terminal Boxes; Asstd. Power Supplies; Magnetic Contactors; Asstd. Circuit Breakers; Asstd. Fuses; Volt Meters; Lightning Arresters; Asstd. Transformers; Power Capacitors, etc.
PUMPS/MOTORS - Electric Motors to 75HP; Submersible Pumps; ARO Diaphragm Pump; GOULD; BERKELEY; BELL & GUSSET Pumps w/ Motor; Gear Drives w/ Motor; Variable Speed Motors; Compressor Motors; DAIKEN Piston Pump; FUJISEKI Slurry Pumps; ENERPAC Manual Pumps; TOKIMIC Hydraulic Pumps; Engine Driven Water Pumps, etc.
VALVES/FLANGES - OVEN TROP Double Regulator Valves; Triple Duty Valves; Diaphragm Valves/Flanges; Gate Valves; Mechanical Valves; Ball Valves; Butterfly Valves; Solenoid Valves; Pre-Shut Off Valves; Control Valves; Pneumatic Valves
STORAGE/HANDLING SYSTEMS - STANLEY VIDMAR 7/8/9 Drawer Storage Systems; OLYMPIC Tote Boxes; Asstd. Pallet Jacks;
MISCELLANEOUS - INTERMEC Communication Junction Boxes; LAN Terminals; Filter Systems; ATLAS COPCO Cooler Elements; Asstd. Pillow Blocks; TORAY DOW Corning Silicone; 3M Tape; Plastic Tube; Transparent Tape; Polypropylene Strap; KING FLOW Meters; Asstd. Gauges; Asstd. KOMATSU Spare Parts; Blowers/Fan Units; Security Video Equipment; KARCHER Vacuum Cleaners; EUROSTAR High Pressure Washers; Asstd. Packaging Materials; ERGOTRON Land Racks; 500 kilos Approx. Black Jedec Trays

On View: Fri. 21st January 2005 - 9:00am to 5:00pm & morning of sale day
Refundable Deposit: Php50,000 (upon registration)
Please bring valid ID to be presented during registration

*PLEASE NOTE: NO SLIPPERS/SANDALS, NO SLEEVELESS SHIRTS, NO SHORTS, NO SMOKING, NO VIDEO/CAMERA, NO CHILDREN - WILL BE ALLOWED ON THE AUCTION PREMISES
PLEASE CONTACT THE AUCTIONEERS OFFICE FOR MORE DETAILS*

For further information please contact May Almudin at Tel: 852 2910 loc. 100
Email: may.almudin@henrybutcher.com

GoIndustry Henry Butcher

HENRY BUTCHER INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES INC
Rm 102 Jollibland Bldg 670 Edsa Pasay City, Philippines
Tel No +63 2 852 2910 / 11 Fax No +63 2 [illegible]
E mail manila@henrybutcher.com
Website www.henrybutcher.com www.goindustry.com

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region V, Pier Site, Legazpi City
☎ # 480-7085 Fax # 480-7900

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF USED/SECOND HAND PROPERTIES "AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

The National Food Authority (NFA), Region V will conduct a public bidding of the following used/second hand properties:

LOCATION	LOT#	ITEM DESCRIPTION	QTY/UNIT	MINIMUM BID PRICE
I-ALBAY	1.1	SATAKE RICEMILL, 5 TPH Property No. 0-NFA-501-PE-A-003	one (1) set	Php 270,000.00
	1.2	BERNABE CONO RICEMILL 12 bags/hr. Property No. 0-NFA-502-PE-A-002	one (1) set	9,000.00
	1.3	CARGO TRUCK, ISUZU 10 WHEELER Plate # SBD-616 Property # 0-NFA-501-LT-B-001	one (1) unit	98,750.00
	1.4	CARGO TRUCK, HINO Plate # SCH-801 Property # 0-NFA-501-LT-B-005	one (1) unit	79,300.00
	1.5	CORN MILL, JOHN DEERS Model: 1104 Property # 0-NFA-501-PE-F-001	one (1) unit	2,000.00
	1.6	GAS EXTRACTION MACHINE Property # 0-NFA-501-OP-A-001 0-NFA-501-OP-A-002	two (2) units	3,000.00
	1.7	POWER TRANSFORMER, 25 kva Brand: Westinghouse	two (2) units	3,600.00
	1.8	PACKAGING MACHINE Brand: Long good Property # 0-NFA-501-WE-A-002	one (1) unit	54,000.00
	1.9	FOGGING MACHINE Brand : Swingfog SN 11 Ser.#: 15597/15605 Property # 0-NFA-501-WE-B-001 0-NFA-501-WE-B-003	two (2) units	2,000.00
	1.10	PLATFORM SCALE Brand: Century Cap.: 1,000 kg Ser. # 9110311 Property # 0-NFA-501-WE-C-020	one (1) unit	1,000.00
II-CAM. SUR		PACKAGING MACHINE Brand: Long Good	one (1) unit	54,000.00
	II.1	Property # NFA-502-PE-E-001 MOBILE DRIER Brand: Anihan Cap. : 1.25 ton/batch		
	II.2	Property # NFA-502-PE-B-049	one (1) unit	27,000.00
	II.3	# NFA-502-PE-B-050	one (1) unit	27,000.00
	II.4	# NFA-502-PE-B-051	one (1) unit	27,000.00
III-CAM NORTE		MOBILE DRIER Brand: Anihan Cap. : 1.25 ton/batch	one (1) unit	27,000.00
	III.1	Property # 00-NFA-503-PE-B-007		
IV-SORSOGON		MOBILE DRIER Brand : Anihan Cap.: 1.25 ton/batch		
	IV.1	Property # 01-NFA-504-PE-B-010	one (1) unit	27,000.00
	IV.2	# 01-NFA-504-PE-B-011	one (1) unit	27,000.00
	IV.3	# 01-NFA-504-PE-B-012	one (1) unit	27,000.00
V-MASBATE		MOBILE DRIER Brand : Anihan Cap. : 1.25 ton/batch	one (1) unit	27,000.00
	V.1	Property # 01-NFA-505-PE-B-006		

Schedule of Bidding are as follows:

Submission of letter of intent	February 10-15, 2005	Submission of Bids	9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.
Issuance of Bid documents	February 10-15, 2005	Opening of Bids	10:00 a.m.
Bidding proper	February 17, 2005		

Bid documents shall be issued only to interested bidders upon presentation of a letter of intent and a non-refundable fee of Php 300.00 to the FADC secretariat not later than February 15, 2005.

Venue for the opening of Bids shall be at the conference room, NFA Regional Office V, Pier Site, Legazpi City.

(Sgd.) JOSE B. GUEVARA
Asst. Regional Director, Chairman-FADC

(PDI – January 19, 20 & 21, 2005)

JOB Market

SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY

VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8978425 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8978425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

RATE
P245 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." **Psalm 116:15**

ALVIN GUANZON RICAFORT

Jan. 28, 1944 – Jan. 17, 2005

ATENEO DE MANILA G.S. 57 and H.S. 61

Who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on January 17, 2005 at the age of 60.

His beloved wife **Esther Llorente**; his sons **Emmanuel "Mio"** and wife **Dina Climaco, Bundjoy** and **Joshua**; grandchildren **Naomi** and **Ethan Jacob**; sisters, brothers and in-laws **Flora** and **Rollie H. San Miguel** (†), **Ma. Elsa** and **Manny G. Abello** (†), **Peping** and **Zon Henson, Joey** and **Ginny Golding, Frieda** and **Edgar Uy, Francis** and **Alice Tuaño, Johnny** and **Cel Rivera, Cynthia, Alexis** and **Greg A. Atienza, André** and **Joyce Lacsamana, Elizabeth** and **Noel Evangelista,** mother-in-law **Veneranda P. Llorente,** brothers-in-law **Rod, Caesar, Julius** and **David Llorente** (†), nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Funeraria Paz-Sucat, Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

Cremation will take place on Saturday, January 22, 2005 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

We accept Classified advertisements
Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding
in **Luzon**

Bakit lalayo ka pa? Sa INQUIRER, convenient na sulit pa!

Baguio City
Mr. Victor Navarro
Pines City News Agency
#2003 Mt. Province Alley
2nd Floor Maharlika Livelihood Center
Baguio City
Tel. Nos. (074) 443-4833/443-8086/
443-4381/442-5524
Mr. Juanito Castro c/o Ms. Ruby Castro
J & R Agency
Parking Lot Upper Mabini Street
(fronting Victoria Supermart) Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 444-6526
Cell. No. (0918) 632-6322
Bataan
Ms. Loudette Banzon
308 Sampaguita St.
Doña Francisca, Balanga City, Bataan
Tel. No. (047) 2373682
Fax No. (047) 7916157
Batangas City
Mr. Romero Clarin c/o Ms. Wilma C. Dayrit
RVC Newsstand, 7 P. Burgos Street
Batangas City
Tel. Nos. (043) 723-4426/984-1523
Mr. Ramon P. Perez c/o Ms. Dodie Simon
Perez Educational & Magazine Store
R&S Perez Building, 45 D. Silang St.,
Batangas City
Tel. Nos. (043) 723-0616, (043) 980-6942
Lipa City
Ms. Rose Perce
c/o NVR Insurance, Rm. 2, RBSA Bldg.
Rizal St., Lipa City
Tel. Nos. (043)312-2408/756-1330
Bulacan
Mr. Rodolfo D. Gregorio
263 Rizal Street, Tarcan, Baliwag, Bulacan
Tel. No. (044) 766-1280
Cell. No. (0917) 892106
Cabanatuan City
Mr. Ruel Capule
#7 Santander Street,
Kapt. Pepe Subdivision
Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija
Tel. No. (044) 463-0823
Nueva Vizcaya
Hinmler John L. Manzano c/o Ms.
Jenny Manzano
Nueva Vizcaya Travel & Tours
Poblacion North Solano, Nueva Vizcaya
Telefax Nos. (078) 3267172/326-7776
Cell. No. (0917) 848-3689

Pampanga
Mr. Noel Cabaero
Lot 4 Block 20 Phase II
corner St. Peter and St. Jude Streets,
St. Jude Village, San Fernando, Pampanga
Tel. Nos. (045) 963-3718, (0918) 605-6249
Gopiao Building, Dolores Homesite,
McArthur Highway
Dolores, San Fernando, Pampanga
Tel. Nos. (045) 961-3787/860-4132
E-mail: cherasum@pamp.pworld.net.ph
Ms. Rowena Ronas
#53 Justice Moja St., Villa Gloria Subd.,
Angeles City
Tel. Nos. (045) 888-4565
Pangasinan
Mr. Vic Chua
JVC Cargo Forwarders Co. Ltd.
243 Rizal Street, Calasiao, Pangasinan
Tel. No. (075) 522-0505/517-5095
Mr. Mario Norales
Marigold Bookstore
AB Fernandez Avenue, Dagupan City,
Pangasinan
Tel. Nos. (075) 522-3326/515-2204
Fax No. (075) 522-0079
Puerto Princesa
Ms. Angelita Leonor c/o Ms. Mabel
Mercado
Leonor's Marimart
Moreeca Building, E. Valencia Street,
Puerto Princesa City
Tel. Nos. (048) 433-2531/433-2551/
433-8032
Tuguegarao
Mr. Richmont Pobre
Agdamag Newsstand,
Stall#7 Tuguegarao Central Market
Gomez Street, Tuguegarao, Cagayan
Tel. Nos. (078) 844-1180/844-0364
E-mail: pobre@cag.pworld.net.ph
Tarlac City
Mr. Erle I. Duduaco c/o E.D. Batteries
F. Tañedo Street, Tarlac City
Tel. No. (045) 982-0653
Cell No. (0917) 448-0551
Fax No. (045) 982-1765
Laguna
Mr. Fernando B. Hamedez
Residence: #10 Marathon Street
Manquita Pueblo, Dita, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Tel. Nos. (049) 531-2778/837-3623
Cell. No. (0917) 530-1959
Store: #250 J.P. Rizal Street,
Cabuyao, Laguna
Tel. No. (049) 531-4829

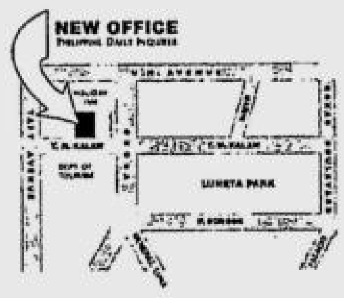
Isabela
Ms. Alice Pua Uy
Lola's Store
Rizal Street, Cauayan, Isabela
Tel. No. (078) 652-2279
Legaspi City
Ms. Irene Solmirano
Brgy. 34 Oro Site, Legaspi City
Tel. Nos. (052) 820-1274/480-8098/
8208432
Cathy P. Sendin
SM Prieto Marketing
Quezon Avenue, Legaspi City
Tel. Nos. (052) 214-3043/214-3848/820-
3748
Fax No. (052) 214-3043
Naga City
Mr. Ramon S. Sia
RS Newspaper & Magazine Headquarters
Stall Nos. 33, 35 & 37
Ground Floor Supermarket
General Luna Street, Naga City
Tel. No. (054) 473-8711
Camarines Norte
Mr. Marcelo Espino
Espino Newspaper & Magazine Store
Gov. Tanchez Ave., Daet, Camarines Norte
Tel. No. (054) 4401688
Quezon City
Mr. Antonio Feliciano c/o Ms. Jean
Germalin Enterprise
397 Tandang Sora Avenue,
Culiat, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 951-7468/931-0108
Rizal
Mr. Jesus Dimagiba
191 Col. Guido Street, Angono, Rizal
Tel. Nos. 365-4353/651-0094
Cell. No. (0917) 794-0432

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

Manila Branch is open to serve your
Classified Ads requirements.



MANILA BRANCH
G/F TRINITY BLDG.,
836 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
TEL. NO.: 527-3342 / 522-4406
Contact Persons: Babes, Eric & Grig

"We never lose those we give to the Lord."

Sir Knight Rufino (Rufing) De Jesus Reyes

President and CEO of Balanga Rural Bank Inc.

of Balanga City, Bataan

Peacefully joined our Lord
at the age of 79 on January 17, 2005.

His beloved wife **Elsie**; loving children **Ramon** (†), **Rosario** and **Raul Banzon**, and **Dennis**; his grandchildren **Rachel Marie, Rumel Justin**, and **Russell John**; his siblings **Rosa Reyes-Dizon** (†), **Quiteria Reyes-Estrella, Dr. Teodoro Reyes & Rosing, Dr. Roberto Reyes** (†), and **Erlino Reyes** (†); relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Santuario Garden and Chapels, Balanga City, Bataan. Interment will be on January 20, 2005 at the Eternal Shrine Memorial Park after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the St. Joseph Cathedral would be highly appreciated.

The Board of Directors, Officers and Staff
of **Balanga Rural Bank, Inc. of Balanga City Bataan**

Condoles with the family for the untimely demise of their
President and CEO

Sir Knight Rufino (Rufing) de Jesus Reyes

Who passed away on January 17, 2005
at the age of 79.

His wife **Elsie**; children **Ramon** (†); **Rosario** and **Raul Banzon**, and **Dennis**; grandchildren **Rachel Marie, Rumel Justin,** and **Russell John**; siblings, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

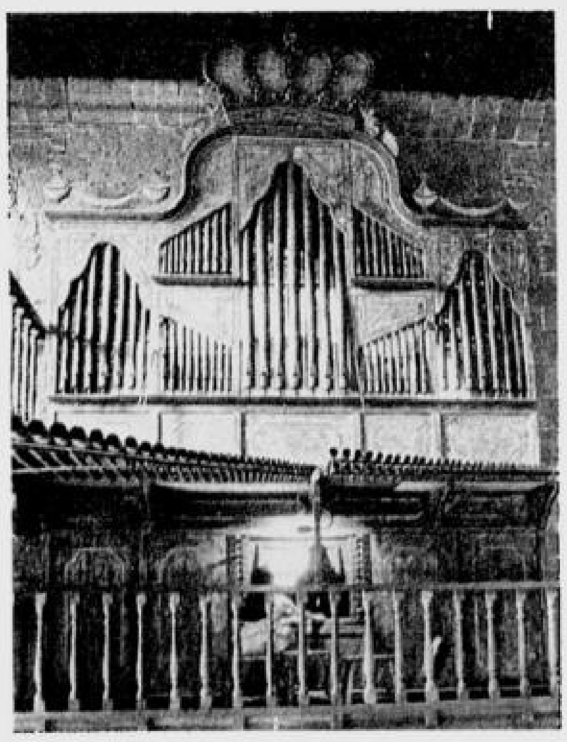
His remains lie in state at the Santuario Garden and Chapels Balanga City, Bataan.

Interment will be on Thursday, January 20, 2005, at the Eternal Shrine after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the St. Joseph Cathedral.

In lieu of flowers, donations for the renovation of St. Joseph Cathedral will be deeply appreciated.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."

CLASSIFIEDS



The Las Piñas bamboo organ comes to life anew

THE FAMED bamboo organ found in Las Piñas City, is certainly no stranger to history. Its creator, Fray Diego Cera dela Virgen del Carmen, likewise the first parish priest in Las Piñas, began work on the organ in 1816, while the St. Joseph Parish Church was then under construction. Through the years, the organ has become the focus of attention of various musical events and town feasts, including the annually-held International Bamboo Organ Festival, which incidentally will be held come Feb. 3 to 11. However, like any other thing, it suffers from wear and tear as well. Through the years, earthquakes and typhoons damaged both church and organ. The first repairs were done by Fr. Cera and later by the locals who were trained by the builder himself. A major rehabilitation was made in September 2003 to November 2004 by the Diego Cera Organbuilders Inc under Cealwyn Tagle. The bamboo organ rehabilitation is made possible through a grant by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) facilitated by Sen. Manuel B. Villar, Jr. and Congresswoman Cynthia Villar. With a newly-repaired organ in place, churchgoers and music enthusiasts will finally see and hear the Bamboo Organ at its finest, and put its audiences in a joyful musical bliss. (For complete program on the 30th Int'l. Bamboo Organ Fest, please call the Bamboo Organ Foundation at 825-7190/826-1856 or check-out the Festival website: http://bamboo.diegocera.com and www.bamboo.kiel23.com.

NOTCH UP 2005: The 16th U.P. JOB FAIR

THE UP OFFICE of Counseling and Guidance (UP OCG) and the U.P. Junior Philippine Institute of Accountants (UP JPIA) will be holding **Notch UP 2005, the 16th University Job Fair,** from **January 24 to 28, 2005,** at the Ang Bahay ng Alumni, UP Campus, Diliman. Students, especially those who are graduating, from UP Diliman and other colleges and universities are invited to this grand event. Job Hunt Basics Orientation, and Power Dressing Seminar are some of the activities to watch out for. Please bring several copies of your resume, your birth certificate and a 1x1 picture for free processing of your SSS number.

The organizers will gladly welcome any inquiries regarding this event through the following: Tel. No./Fax No.: 926.4162. You may also contact us through any of the following: 0916.5237987 (Dodi Ann Catalan), 0917.8584532 (Crystle Lorraine Tan), 0920.5234659 (Felisa Yu).

SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and visit it online at www.jobmarketonline.com
JOB Market ONLINE

OBITUARIES

Our dearly beloved
Nanay

JOSEFINA MACAGALING LARITA

of Infanta, Quezon

Peacefully joined our Creator
on January 15, 2005, at the age of 90

Her husband **PEDRO P. LARITA**; loving children **LARMA & VIRGILIO, JETHRO & DOLORES, MARILOU & ALFONSO, MARIVIC & REGGIE**; grandchildren **SIDNEY, DJ, JEFFREY, JENNY, KIM, KENRIC**; relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, January 22, 2005 at Serenity Memorial Park, Congressional Road, Caloocan City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Atty. PEDRO C. LELIS

...passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on January 16, 2005 at the age of 75.

His bereaved wife **Fidelina Rempillo**; children **Gemma, Sonia, Babette, Cynthia, Pedro, Jr., Glenn, Francisco, Anthony Voltaire, Alvin, Sunshine**; other relatives and friends request the readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at the Chapel of Funeraria Nuestra Señora de Salvacion at Bonot, Legazpi City.

Interment will be on January 22, 2005 at the Bicol Memorial Park after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the said chapel.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate; ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

DR. ARIEL ARTEMUS G. AGUILAR

November 21, 1967 - January 16, 2005

His wife **Wednesday**; his loving parents **Alexander "Baby" Aguilar** and **Rosalinda Aguilar**; sister **Aissa** and **Lichai**; brother **Wowie**; grandparents the late Congressman **Filemon Aguilar** and **Lydia Ampaya Aguilar**, uncles, aunties, cousins, nephew, nieces and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at 1179 Tropical Avenue, BF International Las Piñas City.

Interment will be on Friday, January 21, 2005 at Golden Haven Memorial Park after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at 1179 Tropical Avenue, BF International Las Piñas City.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
City of Iligan
OFFICE OF THE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

January 05, 2005

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of Iligan, thru the Bids and Awards Committee invites interested suppliers, distributors and/or manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of the following:

	PARTICULARS	ABC
A.	PR No. CB-0006 for 1,000 units Ø1/2" Water Meter	P 1,000,000.00
B.	PR No. CB-0007 for 110 pcs. Ø280mm(10") x 6m(20") x 15.9mm thk-uPVC class 150 series 8 with rubber ring, etc. (Plumbing supplies/ materials	1,126,902.00
C.	PR No. CB-0010 for 3 pcs. Ø38 mm G.I. cap, etc. (Plumbing supplies/materials	4,203,020.00
D.	PR No. CB-0056 for 50 pcs. Ø75mm(3") x 6.0m x 5.49mm thk GI pipe S-40, etc.	2,938,322.40

Dates for submission of eligibility requirements, pre-bid conference, issuance of bid documents and opening of bids are as follows:

A. Issuance of Bid Documents – January 27, 2005
B. Pre-Bid Conference – February 21, 2005
C. Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bids – March 4, 2005
D. Opening of Bids – March 4, 2005

The eligibility check and preliminary examination of bids shall be on non-discretionary "pass fail" criteria. Evaluation of bids and post-qualification shall be in accordance with the applicable provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, and are contained in the Bid Documents which can be obtained from the BAC Secretariat, City General Services Office, Buhanginan Hill, Pala-o, Iligan City.

Prospective bidders in need for further information may forward their inquiry to:

The Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee
Thru: BAC Secretariat
CGSO, Buhanginan Hill, Palao Iligan City
Telephone No. 221-4638 / 3516759
or **Engr. Cornelio Ll. Israel**
City Waterworks Manager
Telephone No. 221-4810
Fax No. (063) 3516580

The City Government of Iligan neither assumes any obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of their bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **FRANKLIN D. MAATA**
City Engineer
Chairman, Bids & Awards Commitee

(PDI–Jan. 19 & 26, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of the Interior and Local Government
NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE
ENGINEERING SERVICE
Camp Crame, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

The PNP Engineering Service is inviting interested PNP accredited contractors to participate in the bidding for the Proposed Construction of Medium Rise PNCO Condominium Building inside Camp Crame, Quezon City.

The approved budget for the contract is P75.8 Million funded through PNP Trust Receipts Program of Expenditure CY 2004.

Interested parties may personally obtain the plans, specification and bid proposal form at the PNP Engineering Service, Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Deadline of submission of pre-C/Letter of Intent – Jan. 25, 2005
Issuance of Bid Documents – Jan. 28, 2005
Pre-bid Conference – Feb. 16, 2005
Receipt and Opening of Bids – Feb. 28, 2005

Pre-C document/Letter of Intent will not be accepted after the stipulated deadline and only pre-qualified bidders who were issued with written notice(s) to this effect will be allowed to participate in the bidding.

The Provision of RA 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations, shall govern all particulars relative to the Eligibility, Bid Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract.

Bids and Awards Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defective or informalities in the bids received, and to award the contract to the bidder whose bid evaluated by the BAC is the most advantageous to the PNP.

(Sgd.) **RONALDO O. VILLASEÑOR**
Police Senior Superintendent (DSC)
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Jan. 19, 2005)

For your Classified Ads
requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising HOTLINES:

HEAD OFFICE : **897-8808 loc. 514, 516; 899-4425; 897-2535, 897-8425 (Telefax);**
CUBAO : **912-9008 to 11 (Aurora);**
MAKATI : **892-5578, 811-4361, 811-4370;**
KALAW : **522-4406, 527-3342;**
MEGAMALL : **635-0219, 635-0220**

PUBLIC ESTATES AUTHORITY
7th FLOOR LEGASPI TOWERS 200, PASEO DE ROXAS, CITY OF MAKATI, METRO MANILA
TELEPHONE NUMBERS 817-47-11 • 817-47-12 • 817-47-13
817-5017 • 817-5018 • 817-5014 • 817-1441/46
FAX (632) 815-2662 • 815-2600 • 817-3127
ZIP CODE 1226

INVITATION TO BID

The **PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY (PRA)** formerly known as the ***PUBLIC ESTATES AUTHORITY (PEA)*** is inviting interested parties to participate in the public bidding for the lease of about 1.71 hectares for mixed use purposes and landscape development of about 6.86 hectares of its property known as the ***ESPLANADE***, located at the west end (Bay side) of the Central Business Park I – Island A (CBP I-A) Bay City, Pasay City.

Qualified participants are:

1.) Any Filipino citizen of legal age,
2.) Any partnership, association or corporation, public or private, of which at least 60% of the capital stock or of any interest in said capital stock belongs wholly to citizens of the Philippines and which is created and organized under the laws of the Philippines.

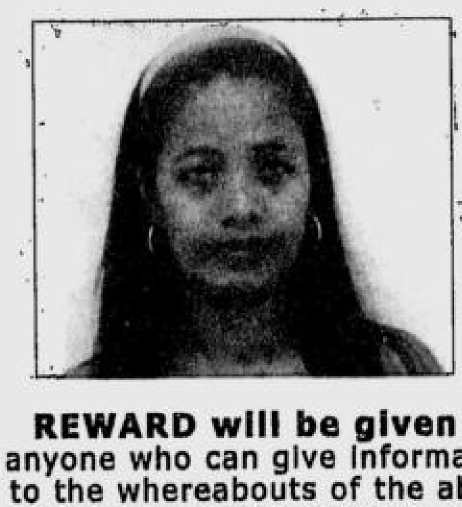
Interested parties may obtain the Terms of Reference and Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00 in cash or Manager's Check starting on January 17, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the office of the Secretariat, PRA Real Estates Bids and Award Committee (PREBAC) 7th Floor Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo De Roxas, Makati City.

Further information, inquiries may be made to the PREBAC in the above address with telephone numbers 817-4711 to 817-4713 (trunklines).

(Sgd.) **TEODORICO C. TAGUINOD**
General Manager/CEO

(PDI--Jan. 7, 11, 17, 25, Feb. 1 & 7, 2005)

MISSING



REWARD will be given
to anyone who can give information as to the whereabouts of the above person known as **MARIVIC S. YU** or **BUENA TALA MACARAEG.**
If you have any information leading to the whereabouts of said person, please contact 0916-6082088 or 0917-6202350 or tel. no. 899-3487.
Information received will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

(PDI - Jan. 18 & 19, 2005)

WHERE YOU FIND THE BEST. *Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and visit it online at www.jobmarketonline.com*

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

BID AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP) invites **Architectural, Engineering and Interior Design Consultants to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the Architectural, Engineering and Interior Design Consultancy Services for the proposed BSPI Offices and Training Center and Rehabilitation of Roof Deck of Multi-Storey Building.** The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for the said consultancy services requirement is **P12,000,000.00.**

The Scope of work includes among others the technical evaluation and the preparation of all pertinent plans, specifications and detailed estimates to include architectural, structural, furniture design and layout, necessary electrical, electronics and communication, mechanical and plumbing/sanitary engineering works for the rehabilitation and renovation of the existing structure and facilities at the 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th floors and roof deck of the Multi-Storey Building at the BSP Main Complex.

The minimum eligibility requirements are as follows:

1.0 The firm must have been in operation for the last twenty (20) years (reckoned from the date of the first advertisement/posting of this invitation).

2.0 The firm must have rendered within the last ten (10) years (reckoned from the date of the first advertisement/posting of this invitation) Architectural, Engineering and Interior Design consultancy services, at least five (5) completed projects of similar nature like educational and training facilities, conference centers, convention halls and other related projects of similar magnitude as the proposed BSP project and must be able to submit individual certification by clients of satisfactory performance for at least three (3) of the required five (5) projects.

3.0 The principal of Managing Officer must be a Registered Architect with at least twenty (20) years experience in architectural design and coordinating team efforts in Architectural, Engineering and Interior Design.

4.0 The key personnel should be Registered Architect/s, Interior Designer/s and Engineer/s with at least fifteen (15) years design experience.

5.0 The firm (partnership/corporation/joint venture) must be at least 60% owned by a Filipino citizen.

6.0 In case of a joint venture, a valid joint venture agreement. The joint venture must have rendered Architectural, Engineering and Interior Design consultancy services for at least two (2) completed projects of similar magnitude as the proposed BSP project.

The **quality-cost** based evaluation procedure stipulated in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA No. 9184 shall be adopted for this consultancy service requirement.

Eligibility documents may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat on January 20 to 28, 2005 for a non-refundable fee of P200.00, Room 204, 2nd Floor, Five Storey Building at the BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Streets, Manila and must be submitted duly accomplished to the same office not later than 4:30 p.m. on January 31, 2005.

The provisions of **Republic Act No. 9184** and its Implementing Rules and Regulations relative to the bidding and award of contract shall apply.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any consultant/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obliged to compensate/indemnify the consultant for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) **MELPIN A. GONZAGA**
Vice-Chairman

(PDI - Jan. 19 & 27, 2005)

INVITATION TO BID

The Boy Scouts of the Philippines (BSP) invites interested parties to bid for its commercial-industrial lot described as follows:

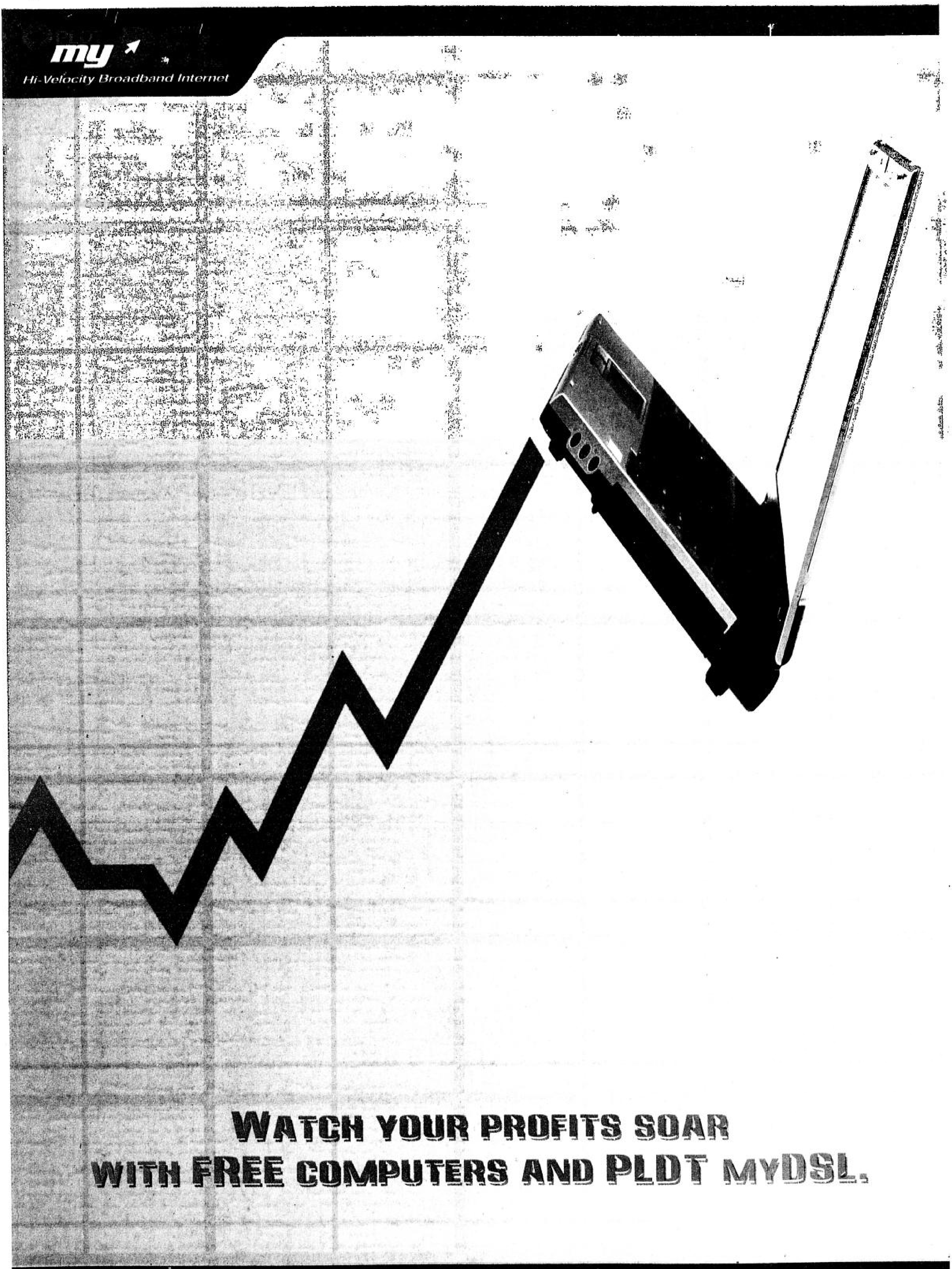
Lot Area : 18,812 sq.m. more or less
Location : 112 Eagle St., Bo. Ugong, Pasig City
Improvements : Office-warehouse buildings (formerly occupied by Warner-Lambert)
Title : Clean
Indicative Price : Php 16,000.00 per sq.m.

Interested bidders are allowed to bid lower than the indicative price. Payment may be on installment with at least 30% down and the balance payable for not more than 3 years. The BSP reserves the right to award to the bid most advantageous to the BSP.

For inquiries contact:
Mr. Danilo dela Cruz
Director, Corporate Assets Management
Boy Scouts of the Philippines
181 Natividad Almeda-Lopez Sts.
Ermita, Manila
Telefax (02) 527-5111;
Tel. 527-8317 local 226 & 203

(PDI - Jan. 19 & 24, 2005)

my
Hi-Velocity Broadband Internet



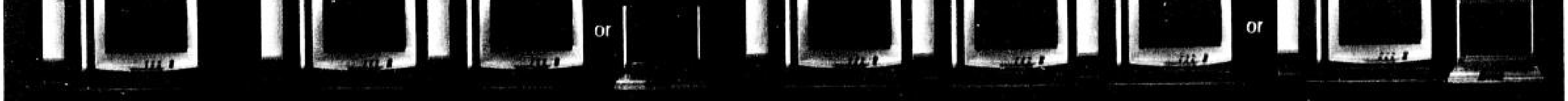
WATCH YOUR PROFITS SOAR
WITH FREE COMPUTERS AND PLDT MYDSL.

Getting wired to the internet introduces your business to new clients, and potentially, more profits. And there's no better way than with PLDT myDSL Small Biz Packages. Subscribe to the package that best suits your needs and we'll give you up to 3 computers to use for your business, absolutely FREE! Call now and take your business to greater heights.

SMALL BIZ LITE
P 4,000 monthly · 512 Kbps
ONE FREE PC

SMALL BIZ. JR.
P 8,000 monthly · 768 Kbps · TWO FREE PCs
or 1 LAPTOP

SMALL BIZ SR.
P 14,500 monthly · 1 Mbps · THREE FREE PCs
or 1 PC AND 1 LAPTOP



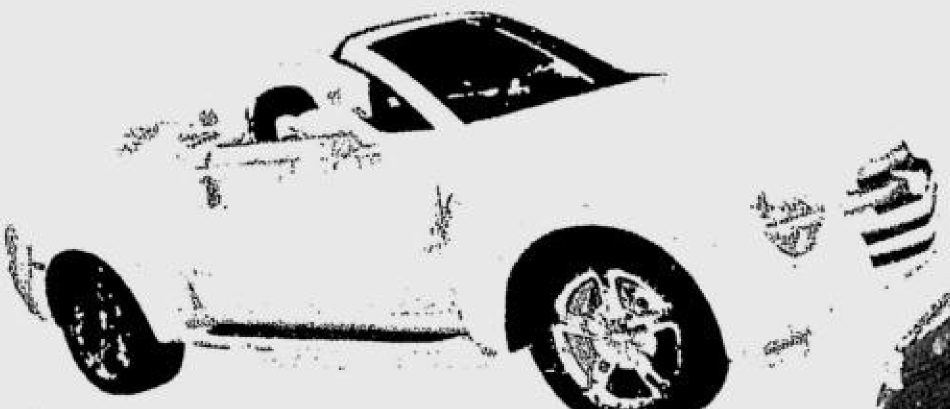
* Hurry! SME FREE PC promo runs until Febuary 28, 2005 only
All packages come with a FREE coloured printer
Rates are VAT-Exclusive

PLDT

Call 171 or visit www.pldtmypad.com for details.

MOTORING

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang
E-mail: pr_motoring@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: inquirer mtr name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or



SSR

CORVETTE

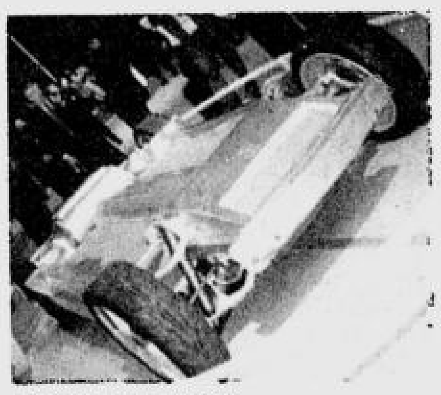
NORTH AMERICAN INT'L AUTO SHOW 2005

Everything you wanted to see on wheels and more

Text and photos by Tessa R. Salazar

DETROIT, Michigan—It was freezing cold outside, but the show was hot inside.

How hot? Talk about waterfalls forming names of vehicles, actual cars hung on walls, and trucks as if they were taking off. And those were just the presentation part. Let alone the concept cars, hybrid vehicles and monster rides coming straight out of some science whiz's fantasy book.



ROLLS Royce EX100

American dream on wheels

This is the North American International Auto Show for you. And this is the American dream on wheels. Over 50 car introductions, 60 car manufacturers, 40 press conferences, and 6,700 journalists stormed the Cobo Hall, and later on an estimated 750,000 visitors gawked at the merchandise during the show's three-week public stint.

Still, among the stunning displays of creativity and technology, some still stood out. Among them were concept cars Rolls Royce 100 EX, Mercedes-Benz Grand Sports Tourer Vision B, worldwide concept cars Chrysler Firepower (a 6.1-liter version of the Hemi V8), a Jeep Gladiator, production intros such as rear-drive Dodge Charger, a 500-hp Corvette Z06—the performance version of the sixth-generation Corvette—and the Cadillac STS-V's performance version.

Potent force to reckon with

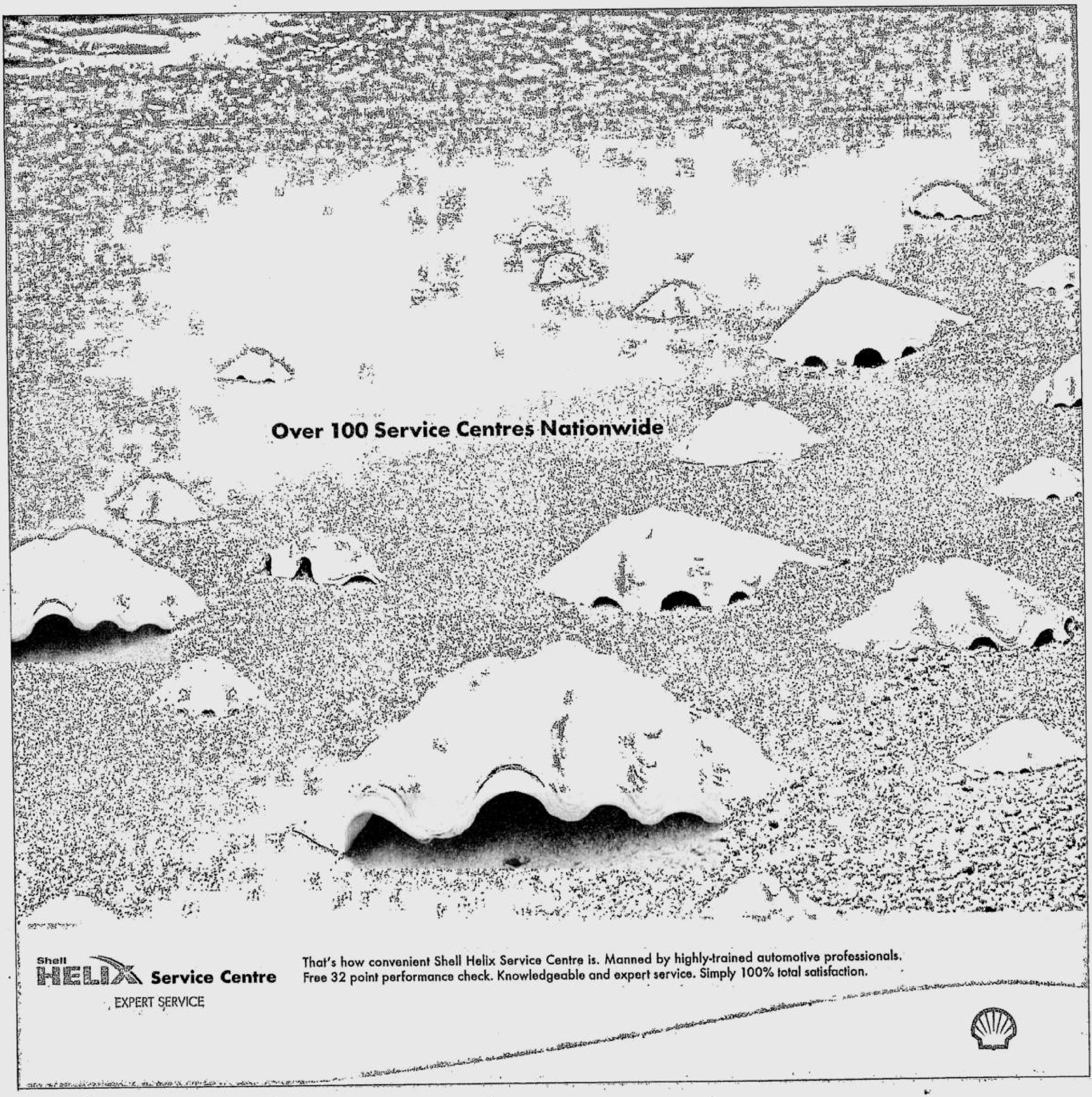
Not to be outdone were Japanese and Korean automakers, who showed 'em all at Naias why they are a potent force to reckon with on the American markets. In 2004, they ate up 26 percent of the US light-truck market. At the Naias, Honda displayed its 2006 Ridgline midsize pickup that featured a tailgate that opened flat or from the side and with a trunk in the bottom of the bed. The display was easily a crowd-pleaser.

Mitsubishi's own midsize pickup, the Raider, which shows some of Chrysler Groups' Dodge Dakota influence, has an option of a 4.7-liter V8 engine. Also at the the American market is the Toyota Tacoma, the Nissan Frontier, and Pathfinder—all in their shining glory at the Naias.

Hyundai, meanwhile, showed off its

EVERYTHING/ B2-2

WINDSHIELD
CRACK REPAIR
U.S. Pat.
Up to any Long, Guaranteed!
LTO APPROVED!
NOT REPLACEMENT! EMISSION CTR2
SALE: ANALYZER 150T / OPACIMETER 215T
- RESTORES CLARITY 80-90%, STRENGTH 100%
- REMOVE GLASS SCRATCHES, ACID RAINS & SILICON BUILD-UP
- CLEANS & SANITIZED CAR A/C IN 45 MINS. (U.S.)
- PAINTLESS DENT REMOVAL • REPAIR LEAKS & DEFOGGER
CALL NOW BEFORE ITS TOO LATE!
MANILA MIDWEST #40 Kalayaan, Ave., Q.C. Tels.: 926-6829/435-6391
Nat'l. Rd. Bangiad, Taytay, Rizal Tels.: 286-2925/286-0362
Km. 16 Aguinaldo Hi-way, Talaba VII, Bacoor, Cavite
Tel.: (046) 970-2464 Cell# 0922-5322001 ILOILO: 337-3782
Cell# 0920-3102154 Website http://members aol.com/hitecom
Bring this ad for P150 OFF except on Emission Test. Expiration date 03/31/05



Shell HELIX Service Centre
EXPERT SERVICE
That's how convenient Shell Helix Service Centre is. Manned by highly-trained automotive professionals. Free 32 point performance check. Knowledgeable and expert service. Simply 100% total satisfaction.

World's biggest automaker revs up Asia Pacific

By Tessa R. Salazar

DETROIT, Michigan—Rick Wagoner's aura envelops the entire planet. His every move sends ripples around the globe. His every decision affects the actions of millions in countless nations. He is, after all, leader of General Motors Corp., the biggest automaker in the world, today's alpha male among the US Big Three (the others being Ford and DaimlerChrysler).

The GMC chair, whose surname befits the industry he is master of, speaks of the Asia-Pacific region as a next-door orchard he is pleased to see blossoming with GMC logos and brands.

Fertile territory

"We are pleased to see some progress in a number of countries in the region and look forward to continuing to expand product offerings and the use of the Chevrolet brand," Wagoner said.

In his mind, the Asia Pacific is, indeed, fertile territory for GMC's seeds. In a few years, the charismatic chair foresees GMC reaching up the forest canopy of a Japanese-dominated auto industry, so to speak.

Wagoner's bold statements are fueled, in great part, by GM's strong showing in China—a veritable "ticking time bomb" in market terms. GM's "very strong growth (in Asia Pacific) will be headlined by the China (market)."

"Despite government actions to slow the economy, industry sales in China still topped five million units last year ... and we continue to be very optimistic about the future potential. And GM's share continues to grow in China, with sales up last year 27 percent, to almost 500,000 units," he said.

The spotlight isn't in China alone. GM in Korea is likewise a major presence. The GM-Daewoo venture is considered a strong addition to the overall global product development capabilities of GM, and the Korean industry is helping GM increase its market position all around the world. The GM-Daewoo venture is expected to produce a million units in 2005.

In Australia, GM Holden continues to play a key role in the thriving Australian market, and is also a source of product engineering and design for GM.

Motivated by success

In the Asean region, GM has had notable successes. Sales were up 150 percent compared to 2003, with record sales in Thailand, Singapore, Brunei, Philippines and Malaysia. Thailand headlined GM's growth in this region, and it was in this country where GM successfully launched the Colorado diesel pickup truck in mid-2004. GM also increased its sales by leaps and bounds in Malaysia, specifically by 600 percent. Motivated by these achievements, GM is set to add production facilities at its Rayong Plant in Thailand anytime soon.

In the Philippines—GM is also making its presence felt. The slick Chevy Optra sedan, a car that looks more expensive than it actually is, climbed up to the third spot in the 1.6-liter category—a remarkable feat for an American carmaker here considering the list has been dominated by Japanese automakers for so many years.

GM Philippines came up with a winning formula for the Chevy Optra—the neat lines of Ferrari designer Pininfarina combined with a surprisingly affordable price tag of as low as P645,000 and warranty perks—to be able to turn heads and compete head to head with Japanese counterparts and a strong Ford presence.

Wagoner also sums up GM's performance in Europe as the automaker's "best in five years" there.

Still losing money

"Unfortunately," he told a crowd of 250 American, European and Asian journalists at the Heritage Center before the start of the North American International Auto Show, "we're still losing money, and so we are having to address that with some difficult actions that will significantly reduce GM's structural costs, and improve the ability of Opel, Vauxhall and Saab to compete and grow in the now extremely price-competitive European market."

GM is also said to be aligning its distribution of the successful GM-Daewoo venture to produce cars under the Chevrolet brand throughout Europe. This move now establishes Chevrolet as its foundation brand in almost all markets around the globe.

All in all, though, North America remains GM's strongest region. Its US market share in 2004 was down slightly compared to 2003. Nevertheless, GM retained its No. 1 position by a large margin.

GM's status in Latin America, Africa and the Middle East remained potent. In 2004, GM retained its No. 1 position in the South American region. Wagoner revealed GM led in seven out of 10 markets there. He was especially pleased that GM Brazil claimed the top position for the first time in its 79-year history.

GM also claimed to have led in Canadian and Mexican markets.

As GM continues its global conquest, newer arsenals are coming off the line and receiving a warm welcome all over. Strong market acceptance of its newest cars and trucks—Cadillac STS, Pontiac, Buick La Crosse, Hummer H2 SUT and Chevrolet Equinox and Cobalt—have been noted.

Isuzu's formula of success; NLE opening

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

I HAVE to salute Isuzu. While many of its rivals—many of them already established in the automotive business—reeled from the economic pinch in 2004, Isuzu virtually breezed its way to commercial success in the year past.

Isuzu might not have launched an entirely new vehicle in 2004, but it did introduce improved and modified models of its products for 2005.

The Trooper alone was given a tasteful exterior makeover in September. In October, the Crosswind was given a new high-end variant called the Sportivo. Only last December, the best-selling D-Max was likewise refurbished.

* * *

While the rest of the Philippine auto industry was busy launching passenger cars left and right last year, Isuzu Philippines Corp.—assembler of the best diesel-powered utility vehicles—concentrated on improving its commercial-vehicle lineup. Also along the way, the company promoted local tourism and spread the good news about diesel en route to topping both pickup and truck sales.

In short, the year past, Isuzu saw no need to bring in all-new vehicles as all its models were still selling briskly. And with its improved models greeting the New Year, Isuzu hopes, quite confidently, to continue dominating the commercial-vehicle segment this year in much the same way it did in 2004.

The year past also saw the changing of the guards at Isuzu.

In April, long-time company president Toru Koyasu turned over the reins of IPC leadership to Yoshifumi Komura. Much younger than his predecessor, the sweet-smiling Komura immediately injected dynamism into the company, as seen in ensuing marketing strategies that were both aggressive and refreshing. The most notable of these was Isuzu's "Diesel Up" campaign, where the company conducted a search for the Isuzu vehicles with the highest mileage figures.

* * *

One of the turning points under Komura's leadership was the overwhelming emergence of D-Max as the undisputed No. 1 pickup in the country, helping Isuzu garner more than 44 percent (2,712 units) of the total pickup market. Its nearest rival could only manage a 24-percent market share. Isuzu's 2004 pickup sales represented a huge growth compared to 2003 figures (1,419 units; 21 percent).

The Crosswind, too, proved a tough nut to crack, seizing more than 28 percent (5,609 units) of the AUV market, in effect becoming the best-selling diesel vehicle in its class. On top of that, the Crosswind led the entry-level SUV segment in J.D. Power Asia Pacific's 2004 Philippine Initial Quality Study. The study gauges vehicle quality during the first two to six months of ownership based on evaluations from more than 1,200 new-vehicle owners. It focuses on 135 problem areas affecting quality across nine IQS categories. The overall model performance is summarized as the number of problems reported per 100 vehicles (PP100). The Crosswind ranked highest in its class with a PP100 of 121, leading the entry-level SUV segment in five of the nine problem categories.

Isuzu's N-Series light truck was even more dominant, cornering nearly 60 percent (683 units) of the market.

Clearly, Isuzu topped the list among commercial-vehicle buyers in 2004, proof that its vehicles can go anywhere, anytime.

For 2005, I expect Isuzu to scale even greater heights as it continues providing everyone's transport needs with uncompromising zeal.

Take a bow, Komura-san.

* * *

I just learned that the new target date for the full opening of the Northern Luzon Expressway (NLE) is Feb. 1. The Manila North Tollways Corp. (MNTC), which will take over the operations of the new NLE, said it is sticking to its much-ballyhooed vow to make the gateway to the North "world-class up to the minutest detail of its rehabilitation and improvement."

The continued delay of the opening of the NLE has been largely due to unacceptable work done thus far in some portions of the expressway. Several times, even long stretches of the NLE had to be bulldozed and resurfaced again to conform to world standards. Perfection has been MNTC's battle cry from the very start.

If the new deadline of completion isn't met, penalties for the contractors will have to be implemented. That could run up to millions of pesos to the consortium of foreign-backed investors. However, if completed early, the corresponding bonus will be given to them.

Fair enough.

* * *

Congratulations to the winners of the Car Of The Year awards, who will be feted in glittering ceremonies starting at 6 tonight at the Rockwell Club poolside in Makati.

I tip my hat off to the people behind this undertaking who, I am sure, took pains conceptualizing the project. It is not easy to pick the winner/s as each car has its own distinct character that cannot really be factored to mean one is absolutely the best of the best in its class. One thing I can tell my colleagues that are behind this gargantuan effort: You've got guts, if not balls. But that is assuming you really did the choosing with sheer objectivity, no matter who gets hurt.

Bravo to that!

* * *

QUOTE ME. If only for that whopping $10-million donation he gave to the tsunami victims, the seven-time Formula One champion Michael Schumacher proved to one and all that he isn't into F1 mainly for the money.

Tin Lizzie; as long as it's black

CATCH MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

LET'S get some things straight. Contrary to a lot of history books, the 1908 Model T was not the first automobile sold by the Ford Motor Company. Its run though, of almost 20 years, up to 1928, spanned an unimaginable 15,000,000 vehicles. This is no small feat even by current manufacturing standards, let alone turn of the century industrial technology.

Ford Motor Company, at this time, had already been open for five years and was turning out modest production of several precursors to the "only-available-in-black" Model T, affectionately known as the Tin Lizzie.

'Fordmobile'

The first vehicle produced that surpassed the "concept car" stage was the 1903 Model A, marketed as the "Fordmobile." Available in a two- or four-seat configuration with an optional roof, it was first delivered to customers on July 23, 1903. With a two-cylinder 8-horsepower unit, it could reach speeds of up to 72 kilometers per hour, eventually. One thousand seven hundred and fifty Model As were produced from 1903 to 1905 and could not, by any means, have been a prediction of the mammoth success to be had less than a decade later.

Another notable release was the Model N, which became available from 1906 to 1908. This in turn was powered by a 15 horsepower, in-line four. Improved performance over the previous Fords is what probably ensured that over 7,000 units were sold. There was a Model S that went on sale in 1907, and through 1909, sold 3,750 units, but it was merely a variation of the previous model. It featured a convertible top, gas-powered lamps, as well as umbrella holders. Talk about amenities!

Intense public clamor

The now mythological Model T, with a 20-horsepower, 177-cubic-inch (2.9-liter), side-valve motor, actually had inauspicious beginnings, as production was not yet ready to service the intense public clamor for the vehicle. Merely 11 Model Ts rolled out in the first full month of production at the original Piquette Avenue Plant in Detroit, Michigan. In hindsight, a relatively small run of 12,000 units was produced until 1910 when assembly of the vehicle moved to the Highland Park Complex.

The Industrial Revolution and the innate design advantages of the Tin Lizzie then kicked in and truly sent production into overdrive. By 1914, the assembly line and the fact that the Model T was built from standardized and interchangeable parts meant that it only took an hour and a half to fully complete the car. Painting and drying times were also taken into consideration in this process and probably lead to the urban legend that all Model Ts were black. This fact is only partially true, as color-painted versions were available from the windows of 1908 to 1914, when production was not that hectic, and 1926 to 1927, toward the end of the vehicle's production run. Some sources say that black was the only color used during the years of manic mass production, as it was the quickest drying paint available.

Success of this car can be linked to two factors, competitive pricing relative to competitors and inherent quality derived from the standardization of parts during the assembly line process. The initial price in 1908 was US$800. Because of the efficiency of production, the sticker price went down to as low as US$300, equivalent to about US$3,000 in its 2004 value, as estimated by a leading Model T enthusiasts' group. This allowed it to be sold competitively against its rivals that had sticker prices of upward US$2,000 all the way back in the 1920s. Manufacturing ceased on May 27, 1927, but did not spell the end of the Model T's legacy, as up until 1941, its engine was still being produced. A scant 170,000 units were finished.

Value vehicles

Accomplishment on the magnitude of the Ford Model T is common in our times. Two other cars have broken the 15,000,000 unit barrier in "recent" history, namely the Toyota Corolla (1966 to present) and the Volkswagen (Type-1 and onward) "Beetle" (1938 to present). What these three platforms have in common is their timely arrival, unparalleled utility, spartan engineering, and true bang for the consumer's buck.

"Value Vehicles," as I like to call them, must meet these four basic attributes and also, first and foremost, be proficient in the transportation of human beings; something that vehicle manufacturers have actually engineered out of cars, in favor of perceived performance and marketing driven styling. In the end, we need a true "people's car," a motor for the masses that will allow a majority of Filipinos to putter about, at the lowest possible cost, in relative safety and comfort. I very much doubt that the public would mind if such a vehicle was also only available in black.

Suspense builds up . . .

From page B2-3

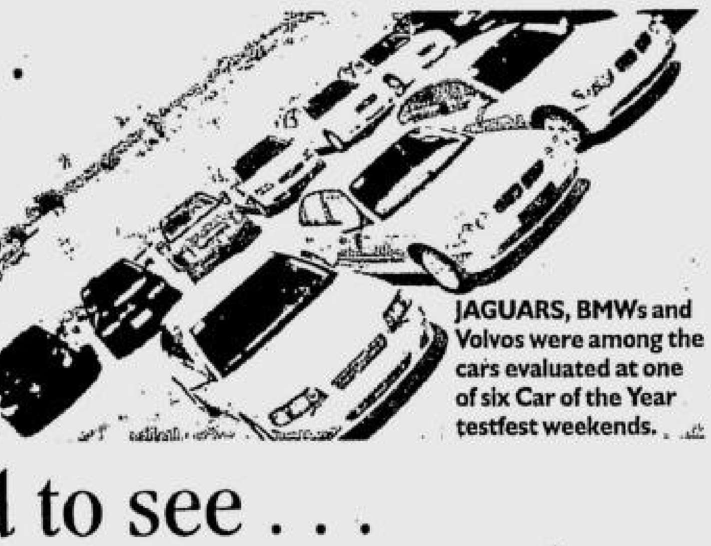
minivan should be a penalty box for the driver—like anyone reading this magazine, we expect decent get-up-and-go at the traffic lights, secure and confident handling, communicative steering and strong, progressive brakes, too. Of course, if it's a sports car under the Coty microscope, the driving experience becomes paramount. Want room for a couple of suitcases? Buy a sedan, buddy."

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: War doesn't determine who's right. War determines who's left.

* * *

E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph.



JAGUARS, BMWs and Volvos were among the cars evaluated at one of six Car of the Year testfest weekends.

Everything you wanted to see . . .

From page B2-1

2006 Sonata, the brand hoping to add to its US sales (which Detroit automotive columnist Christine Tierney estimated to have risen 5 percent in 2004 to 418,615 vehicles) Kia sales, on the other hand, rose 14 percent to 270,055 units.

Realistic enough

Foreign journalists roaming the Cobo Hall who were realistic enough to conclude that not all of what they saw would arrive in their country anytime soon contented themselves with the fact that auto shows such as the Naias generally pointed to the overall direction next-generation cars would take—a sort of preview of automobiles to come. The big question that remained, thus, was when these cars would eventually make its presence felt, particularly in developing countries.

Particularly exciting in this aspect was GM's Saturn Sky Roadster. The auto giant is bringing the roadster to the world market and it says that it will continue to give good value propositions (read: price) for such a design.

The Saturn series continues to expand its appeal to more diverse groups of customers in 2005. GM is also adding the Relay crossover sports van to its lineup. The Relay will be the first of four all-new Saturn products to come to market in a span of 30 months. The first Saturn that can seat more than five people, Relay combines SUV-like styling with the functionality of a midsize van. Saturn will also add the Sky roadster to its vehicle lineup in early 2006. The rear-wheel-drive sports car will be built at the manufacturing plant in Wilmington, Delaware.

BMW H2R

Suspense builds up for Car of the Year

SIXTY-ONE motor vehicles are in the running for the first Car of the Year (Coty) Award in the Philippines. All 61 underwent instrumental and qualitative tests during a six-weekend evaluation period at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in the last quarter of 2004.

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

Tonight, at a Coty Pre-Awards Dinner at the Rockwell Club Poolside sponsored by Worldbex International, organizer of the Manila Motor Show, motoring journalists who participated in the testfests will cast their ballots for what they consider the best in 10 different categories: super mini, sport compact, executive sedan, luxury sedan, ultra-luxury sedan, Asian utility vehicle, pick-up, minivan/people carrier, compact/light sport utility vehicle and luxury/full-sized SUV. From these best-in-class selections, each will vote his/her personal choice for Car of the Year.

Meanwhile, the results of the instrumental/quantitative and qualitative tests have been kept in the strictest confidence prior to auditing by Sycip, Gorres and Velayo. Not even the board members and officers of the Car Awards Group Inc. (Cagi), the nonstock, nonprofit organization of motoring journalists that initiated Coty Philippines, have seen the test results.

Intensify

The integrity of the test results and the sanctity of the ballot intensify the suspense building up toward the Coty Awards Night when the best-in-class winners and Car of the Year will be proclaimed. The winners of five special awards—Best Safety Package, Best Value for Money, Best in Overall Design, Best Marketing Campaign and Best in Technical Innovation—will also be announced. The Coty Awards Dinner, sponsored by the Manila Motor Show, will be held on Feb. 24 to which car industry leaders, government officials, media personalities and sponsors such as Manila North Tollways Corp. and Standard Insurance Co. Inc. will be invited.

Rockwell Land, recognizing the importance of the Coty event, is sponsoring free use of the Rockwell Tent in Makati City as the venue for the Feb. 24 awards dinner. In addition, Rockwell Land will allow the winning Car of the Year to be displayed at the Power Plant Mall for three days during the weekend of Feb. 25-27.

Impartiality

Notice that no car manufacturer is included among the Coty event sponsors. This was deliberate on the part of Cagi to avoid any conflict of interest and to establish beyond doubt the impartiality of the Coty proccss. The logistics for six weekends of testing at Eagle Ridge in Cavite were provided by Automobile Association Philippines (AAP, formerly the Philippine Motor Association), without whose support Coty would not have been possible. In fact, AAP's role in Coty as the primary sponsor was a key factor in persuading the car manufacturers to lend their products to Cagi for the tests. AAP was also instrumental in getting SGV to audit the Coty test results pro bono.

Car of the Year, by the way, is an invention of Motor Trend magazine, whose executive editor, Matt Stone, e-mailed his best wishes to Cagi director (and INQUIRER motoring reporter) Tessa Salazar last November for the Coty Philippines project. In his editorial for the January 2005 issue of Motor Trend, editor in chief Angus Mackenzie wrote that the Coty idea was coined in the magazine's third issue way back in November 1949, or 55 years ago.

Criteria

"Coty is no respecter of badge or pedigree; it's the car that counts," Mackenzie avers. "...The key thing to remember is that we're not comparing the contenders against each other....No, what we're testing for is how well each contender measures up against the Coty criteria of superiority, significance and value in the context of its market competitors.

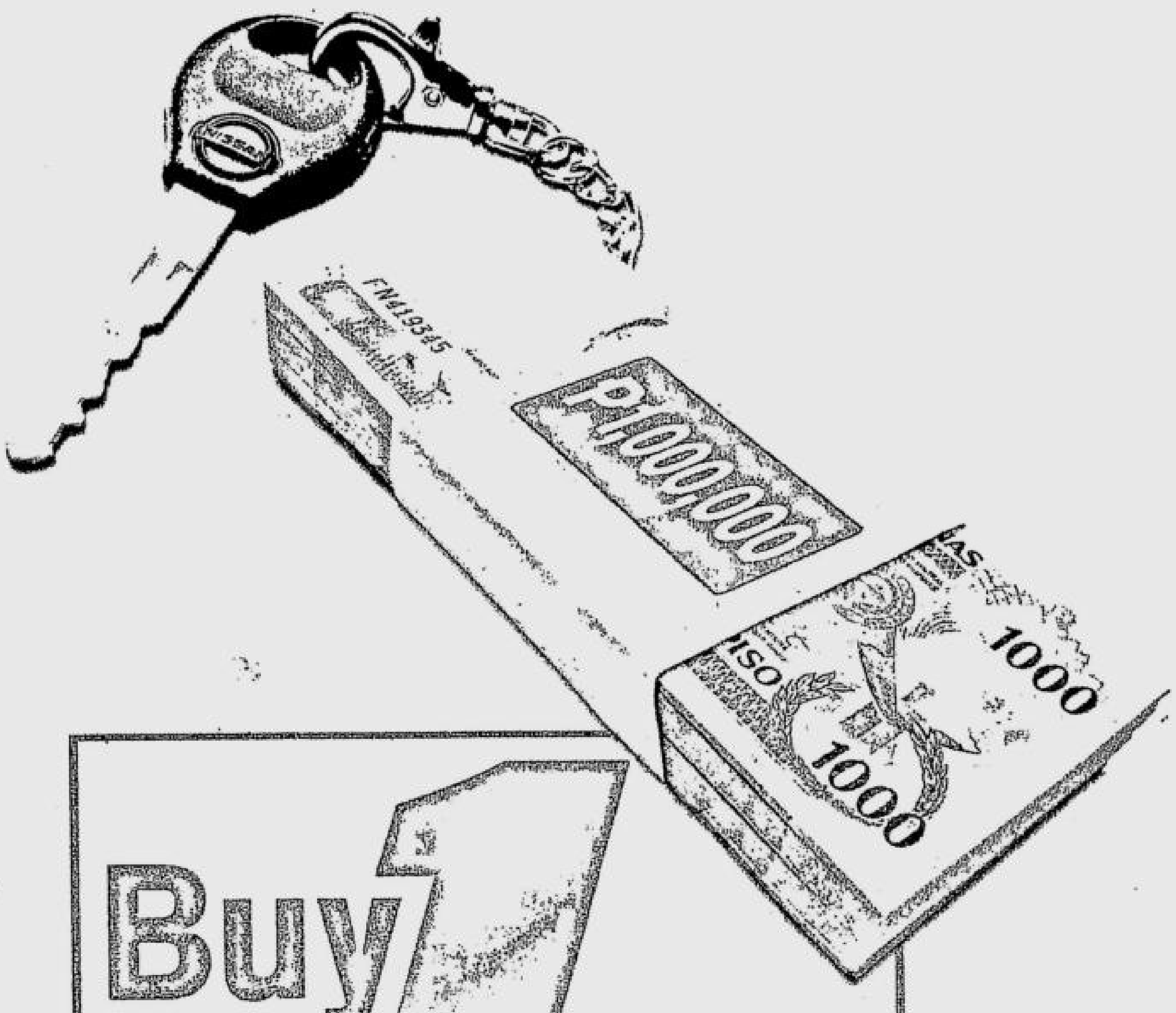
"We look at engineering excellence, taking into account the vehicle concept and execution. Clever engineering solutions that deliver improved performance and dynamics, maximize interior space and comfort, and reduce running costs can lift a car above the competition. We also look for advancement in design, whether a car moves the needle in terms of its exterior and interior styling, or whether it's simply brilliantly crafted the way it's bolted together.

Function

"The bottom line is we want to see how well each Coty contender performs the function its maker claims it was built for. If we're evaluating a minivan, how competently does it carry people and their junk? Is it flexible and easy to use, quiet and comfortable on the road? That's not to say a

SUSPENSE/ B2-2

ROCKWELL Land president Nestor Padilla, 4th from left, and Car Awards Group Inc. (Cagi) VP Aris Ilagan shake hands after signing an agreement for Rockwell Tent at the Plaza to be the venue of the Car of the Year Awards Night on Feb. 24, 2005. Also shown (from left) are Power Plant GM and AVP Malou Pineda, Cagi director Aida Sevilla-Mendoza and secretary Ulysses K. Ang and Power Plant Mall VP for retail and mall marketing J.P. Masakayan.



Buy 1 Take 1 Million

Buy a Nissan Frontier or Patrol now and you could win 1 Million!

Just visit your nearest Nissan dealer to avail any of these great value deals!

AS LOW AS 10%* DOWNPAYMENT

UP TO P100K DISCOUNT ON CASH PURCHASES

0%* INTEREST ON SELECTED TERMS

AS LONG AS 6YEARS* TO PAY

Hurry! Triple your chances of winning from January 17, 2005 to February 18, 2005

EASTWESTBANK
BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK

Promo period is from January 17 to April 15, 2005.
See posters for details.
Per DTI–NCR Permit No. 0213 Series of 2005

* Subject to bank approval. Bank financing scheme available through East West Bank and BPI Family Savings Bank only.

NISSAN

50 Universal Motors Corporation

METRO MANILA DEALERS: CORE AUTOMOTIVE RESOURCES, INC. (Makati) Tel Nos. 810-0151 / 812-7538 / 818-4596 / 892-6217 • MANTRADE DEVELOPMENT CORP. (Makati) Tel Nos. 843-3316 to 23 / 843-8011 / 812-7701 • NISSAN GALLERY (Ortigas) Tel. Nos 633-2545 / 635-5888 / 438-4539 (Quezon Ave.) Tel. Nos. 742-4145 / 731-5308 • NISSAN NORTH EDSA Tel. Nos. 455-8980 / 330-5331 to 50 • NISSAN COMMONWEALTH, INC. Tel. Nos. 932-0426 / 932-4001 • BROADWAY MOTOR SALES, INC Tel. Nos. 525-9061 to 64 / 400-1522 / 400-1020 / 400-2177 / 404-2439 • NISSAN WESTGATE (Alabang) Tel. Nos. 772-1826 / 775-0238 / 765-0239 / 775-0523 • *LUZON DEALERS:* NISSAN SOUTHWOODS Tel. Nos. 699-2400 to 02 / (049) 241-3040 / (046) 430-1683 to 84 • LISAM ENTERPRISES Tel. Nos. (054) 472-3577 to 79 • WORLD CARS, INC (Baliuag) Tel. Nos (044) 766-0492 / 766-0191 / 673-1200 • NISSAN PAMPANGA Tel. Nos. (045) 961-5481 / 961-5461 to 62 • ROYCE MOTOR CENTER, INC (Cabanatuan City) Tel. Nos. (044) 463-7210 to 12 (Isabela) Tel. Nos (078) 682-8701 / 682-6707 (San Fernando) Tel. Nos (045) 961-7773 to 74 • *VISAYAS DEALERS:* S & J MOTORS, INC. Tel. Nos. (033) 320-4061 to 64 • ILOILO CAR CORPORATION Tel Nos. (033) 320-2248 / 320-2064 • PO'S MARKETING ENT., INC. Tel. Nos. (034) 435-1102 / 434-8051 to 52 / 434-8530 / 433-2907 / 433-0562 / 67 • NISSAN CEBU DISTRIBUTORS, INC Tel. Nos. (032) 346-8422 to 25 / 345-0008 to 07 / 346-0350 / 345-1124 / 346-8430 to 31 / 345-1450 • *MINDANAO DEALERS:* NISSAN CAGAYAN DE ORO DISTRIBUTORS, INC. Tel. Nos (08822) 732-672 / 733-444 / (088) 856-3558 • DAVAO UNICAR CORPORATION (Davao City) Tel. Nos. (082)221-1914 / 16 / 18 / 227-0308 to 09 (General Santos City) Tel. No. (083) 552-3228

3 YEAR WARRANTY 100K KM

Valvoline

World's First, World's Finest Since 1866

Valvoline
XLD Plus
Valvoline
Valvoline
Valvoline

Make The Right Choice...

FOR DEALERSHIP INQUIRIES, PLS. CONTACT VALVOLINE PHILIPPINES.: TEL.: (632) 984-8075 to 77 • FAX: (632) 984-4412

Passion

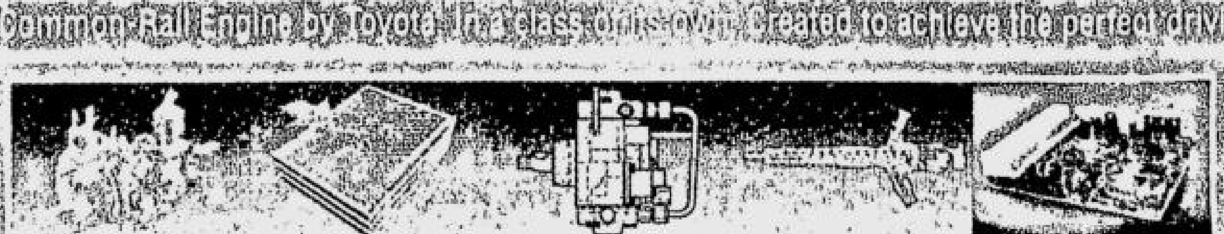
When you know the roads in the world...

You know how to make the latest, advanced-engineered engine

To set a new benchmark for the world's automotive industry – this is the goal of Toyota's Global Quality Project. Part of this project was the introduction of the first Toyota Common-Rail engine in Japan. Today, driven by its passion for innovation, Toyota is proud to introduce the D-4D Common-Rail Engine, undoubtedly the most advanced diesel engine today.

Unlike earlier diesel engine models, the D-4D Common-Rail Engine is able to constantly supply high-pressurized fuel injections at all speed ranges, enabling better combustion. The results are increased power, less engine noise, cleaner emissions and better fuel efficiency.

The new D-4D Common-Rail Engine by Toyota. In a class of its own. Created to achieve the perfect driving experience.



New D-4D Common-Rail VN Turbo Intercooler

GLOBAL QUALITY PROJECT

TOYOTA

SOFTER AND WHITER.
HAIR-FREE UNDERARMS.
Call the Facial Care Centre for LaserLight:
892 SKIN (7546)

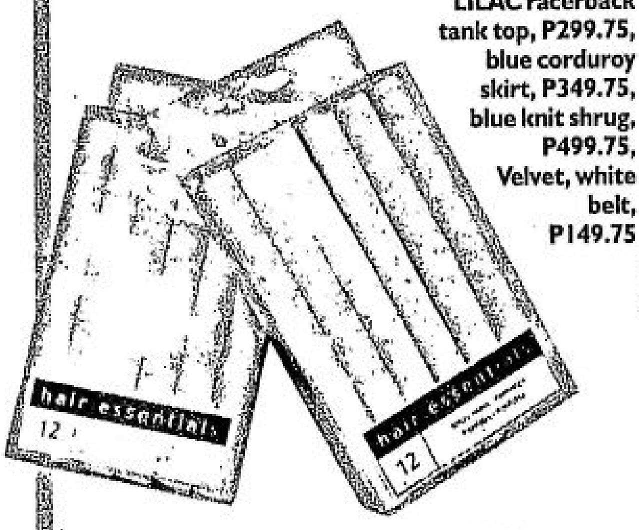
LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Chief of Correspondents **Pam Pastor**

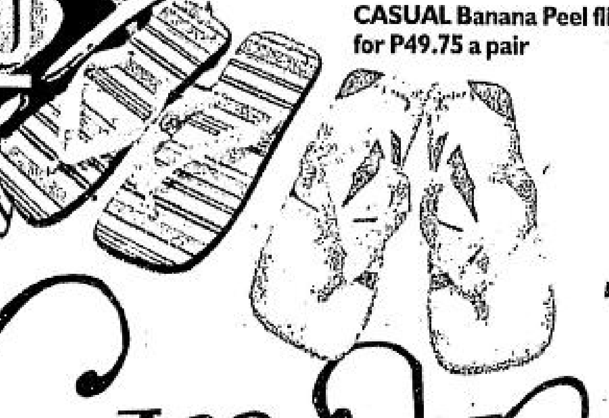
P99
DUNKIN' DONUTS
Rainbow
Choco Rings

2BU! FASHION FREAKS

LILAC racerback tank top, P299.75, blue corduroy skirt, P349.75, blue knit shrug, P499.75, Velvet, white belt, P149.75



GET twisted (hair) with benders, P219.75 per pack of 12



CASUAL Banana Peel flipflops for P49.75 a pair

Smart Shopping

Pajama sets, hooded shrugs, three-in-one ponchos, and other fruits of several hours of bargain-hunting

By Bianca Consunji, Happy David and Pam Pastor
Photos by Raffy Lerma

IT WAS 2004's makeover of the year. In our book, SM Makati's overhaul stomped all over The Swan transformations.

And when its doors opened again, people streamed in, drawn by the bright lights and extra-shiny floors.

We admit, we were among them.

The 2bU! Fashion Freaks invaded SM Makati one Wednesday afternoon and faced the challenge of finding super bargains and great discoveries.

It was a breeze.

Although we originally made a pact to follow a self-imposed budget, we ended up completely forgetting about it.

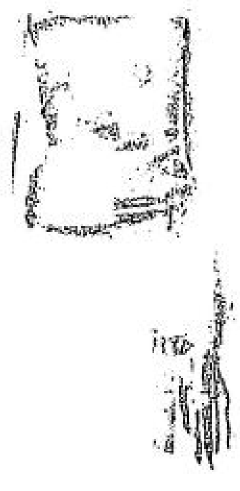
Can you blame us? We think not.

Do you want the fashion freaks to visit your store or check out your wares? E-mail us at thefashionfreaks@yahoo.com.

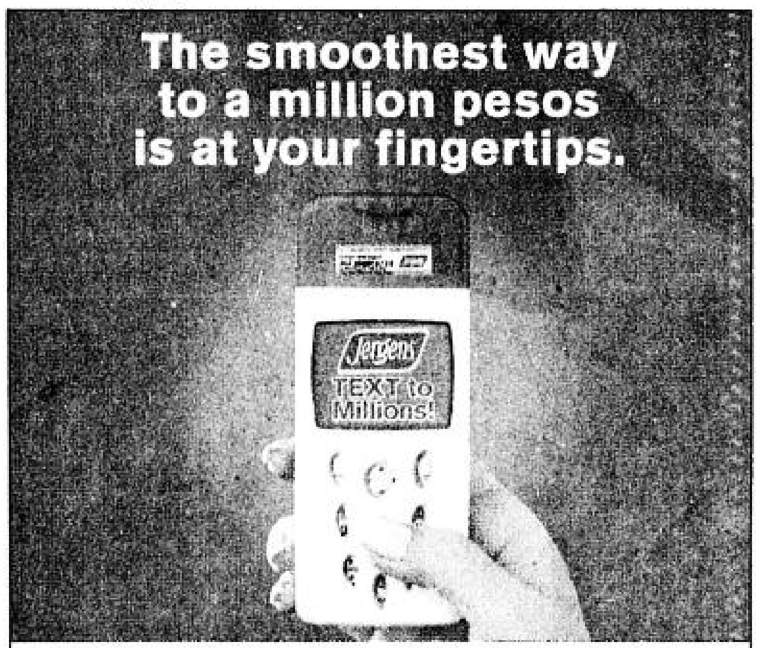
Bianca's Picks

Favorite departments: Beauty, Toy Kingdom girls' section
Favorite find: A blue corduroy miniskirt at P349.75
Best bargain: A beaded lime green tube top for only P149.75
Must-buys: Cute scarves that cost less than P200, benders for curling your hair at P219.75 for a pack of 12.

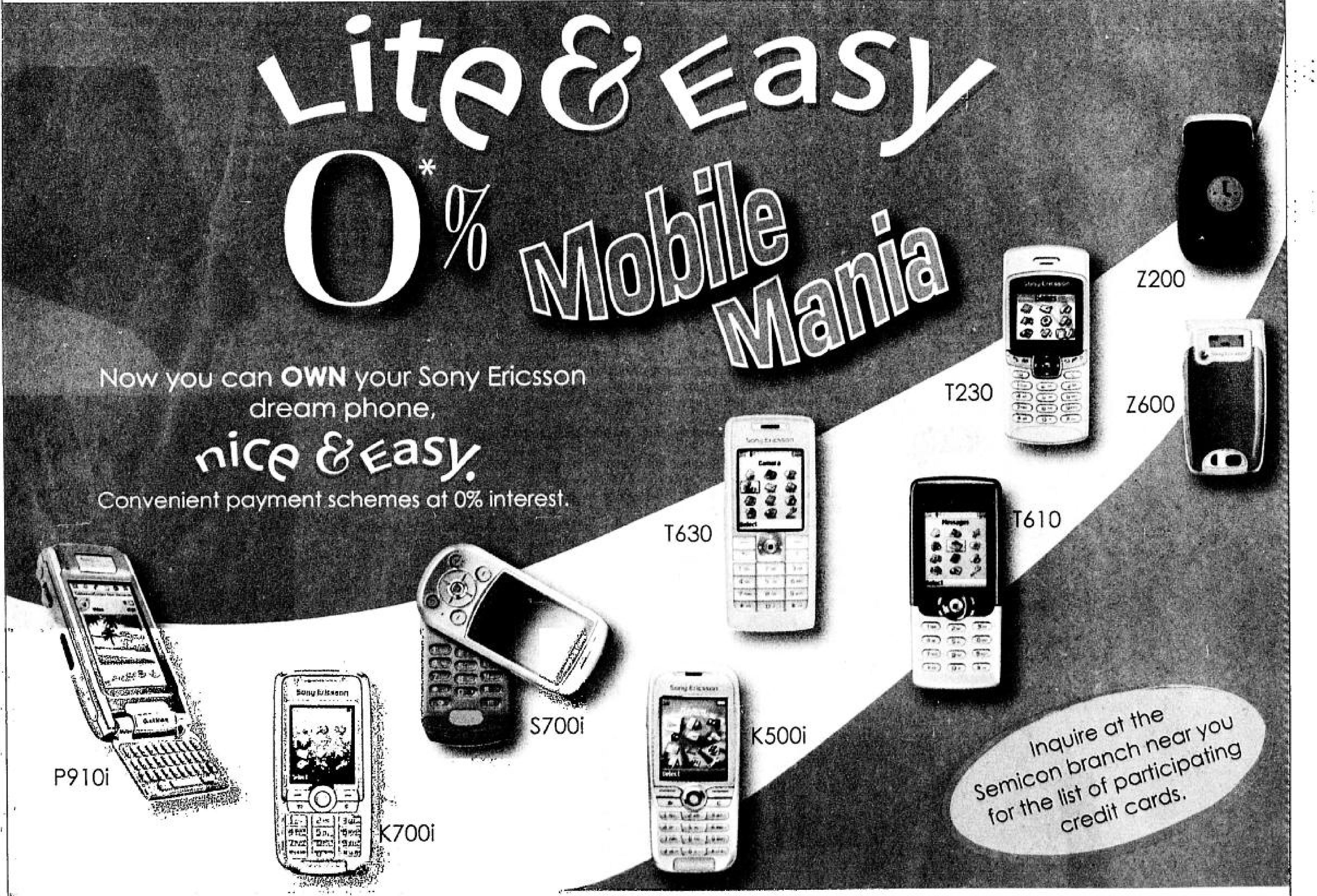
Tips for readers:
- Don't buy the first thing you see on display, but do take note of it. You can return to it if you don't see anything better.
- Check out the children's section for clothes. Yes, for clothes; the stúff you'll find there are often cheaper than those found in the teens' department. One of my favorite finds is a beaded tube top that I got from kiddie wear. It fit well (at 5'8, I'm no petite little girl), and it was just P150. Check out the accessories too.
- Eat before shopping—that way, you're assured of not going hungry in the middle of frenzied shopping.



LIME green tube top, P149.75, cropped white pants, P449.75, pink scarf, P199.75



The smoothest way to a million pesos is at your fingertips.
Get a chance to win free cellphone loads and P1 Million!
First time texters must register as follows:
BNT REG <City or Town>/<Province>/<Name>/<Complete Address>/<Sex>/<Age>/<Code>
Send to 399 for Smart & Talk 'N Text subscribers or 2350 for Globe and Touch Mobile subscribers.
See posters for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2105 Series of 2004



Sony Ericsson
SEMICON
Lite & Easy
0*% Mobile Mania
Now you can **OWN** your Sony Ericsson dream phone, nice & easy.
Convenient payment schemes at 0% interest.
Inquire at the Semicon branch near you for the list of participating credit cards.
Semicon is an authorized dealer of Sony Ericsson.
*Provided monthly bills are paid in full.

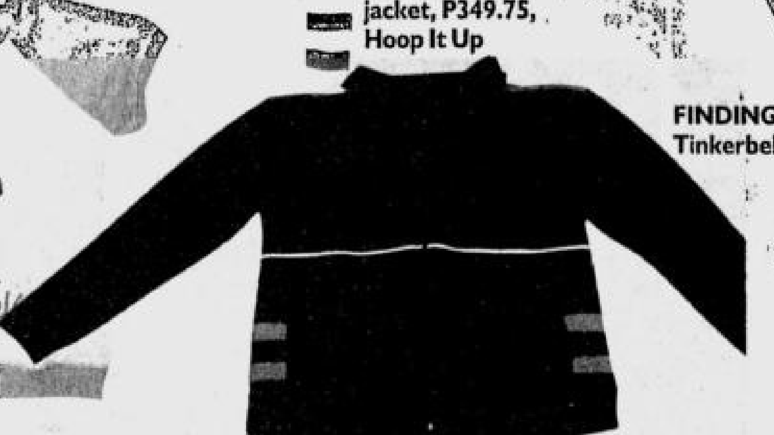
PARTICIPATING SEMICON BRANCHES:
SM Manila Level 4 SM City, Manila 527-8740 ○ SM City North Edsa Cyberpark Mall 925-4320 ○ SM Megamall 4/F SM Megamall Bldg. B 638-8992 ○ Rockwell Power Plant 3/F Power Plant Mall, Makati 898-0262 / 898-2515 ○ The Podium 5/F The Podium Mall, Ortigas Ctr. 631-1812 ○ SM City Fairview Quirino Highway, Q.C. 417-7561 ○ SM Southmall Alabang-Zapote Rd., Las Piñas 806-9570 ○ Festival Supermall Filinvest Corporate Ctr., Alabang 807-5549 ○ Cyberone Mall Eastwood Eastwood, Libis, Q.C. 687-6433 SM Centerpoint Araneta Ave., Sta. Mesa, Manila 714-3518 ○ SM City Pampanga Level 2, San Jose, San Fernando (045) 9612813 ○ SM Lucena 2055 Purok Sariling Atin, Ibabang Dupay, Lucena City (042) 710 3550 ○ SM City Cebu 2nd Level, NRA, Cebu City (032)2326424 ○ SM City Davao 3/F, Quimpo Blvd., Ecoland (082) 2991762

Promo period is from December 8, 2004 to January 30, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5936. Series of 2004.

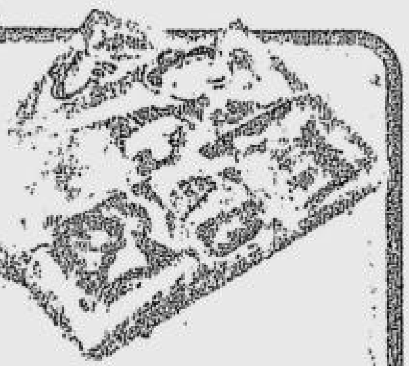
Smart Shopping

23
HOOP IT UP

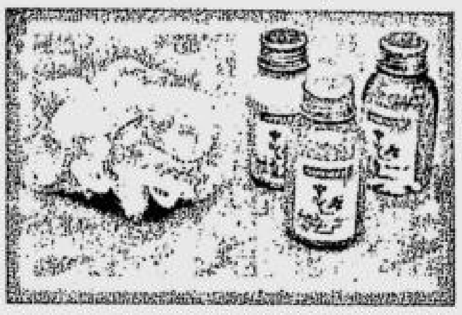
YELL-ow. Shirt, P299.75, G-Girl


WARM UP. Men's jacket, P349.75, Hoop It Up

FINDING NEVERLAND. Tinkerbell wallet, P50


ECSTATIC over elastic. P99.75

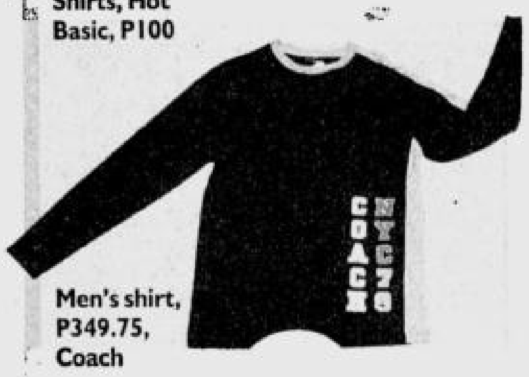
RAIN rain, go away. Umbrella, P399.75


WATSON'S bath set. Hand and body lotion, bath and shower gel, body scrub and loofah, P99.75

Pam's picks

Favorite departments: Ladies' wear, ladies' accessories, teens' wear, toys, children's accessories, beauty
Favorite find: Pajama sets for P299.75
Best bargain: P100 shirts
Must-buys: The pajama sets. The colors are lovely, they're ultra-comfy and they're such a steal. I'm actually planning to wear mine out. Tips for readers: Don't ignore the children's sections. You may find really cute items there. When you're getting too overloaded with stuff, leave some of your purchases at the counter. Just ask your friendly saleslady to keep an eye on them for you. The fitting room is your friend. Try things on, that's the only way you'll know what really works. Clothes wouldn't always look the same on you and the mannequin. Wear comfortable shoes, as you're going to need them for running around the different floors. Check out the fab P399 sneakers in the shoe department. Bring friends or your significant other. The thrill of finding great bargains is better when shared with other power shoppers.

BEST BARGAIN. Shirts, Hot Basic, P100


Men's shirt, P349.75, Coach

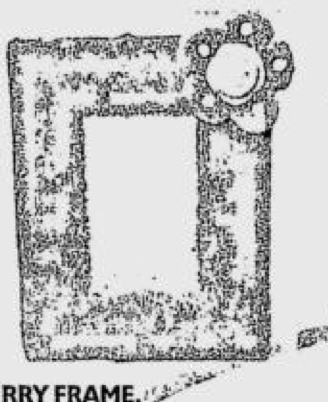
YEAR of the rooster. Car decor, P69.75

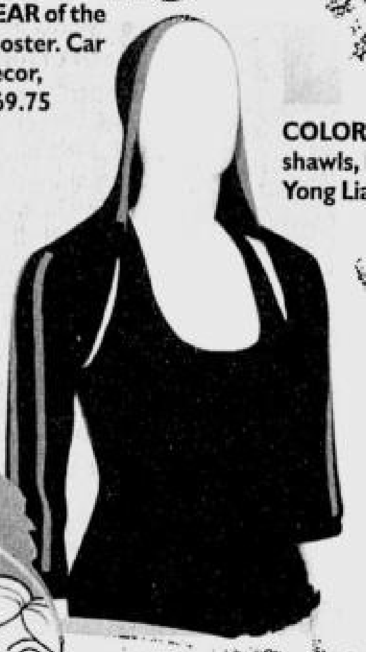
COLORFUL shawls, P199.75, Yong Liang

PAJAMA set, P299.75

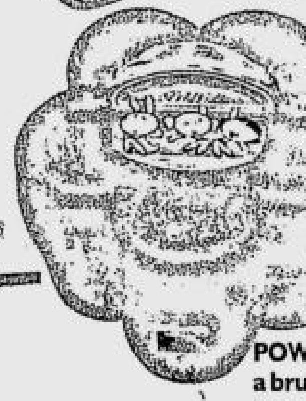
STRIPED CD case, P149.75

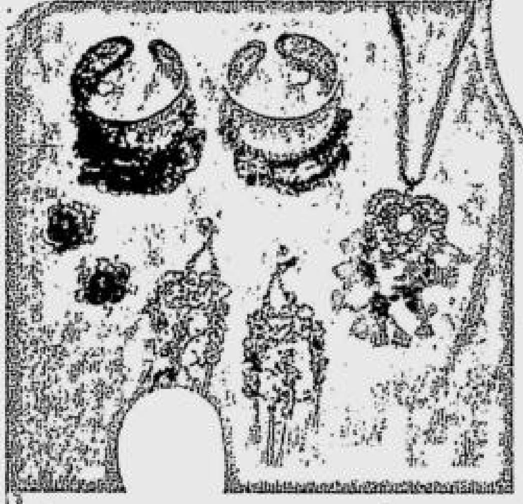
PINK shrug, P199.75

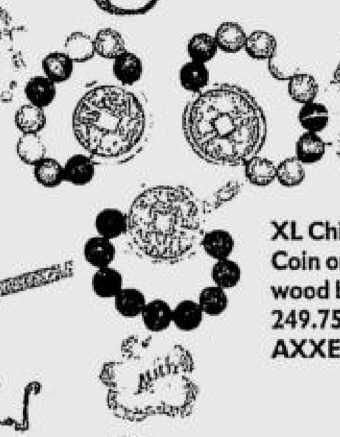

FURRY FRAME, P199.75


HOODED Shrug, P279.75, Redhead

BRATZ bag, P249.75


POWERPUFF Flower Box (contains a brush, mirror, snap clips, ponytail holders and elastics), P299.75


INDIAN accessories great for belly dancing, 429.75 to 529.75, AXXEZZ

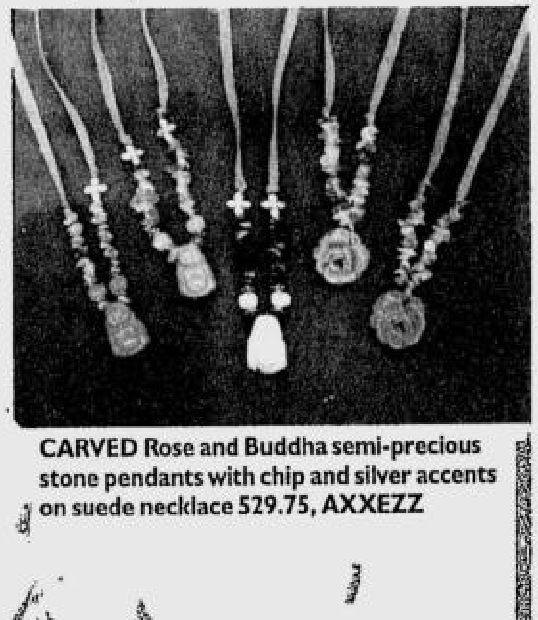

XL Chinese Coin on coco wood bracelet 249.75 AXXEZZ

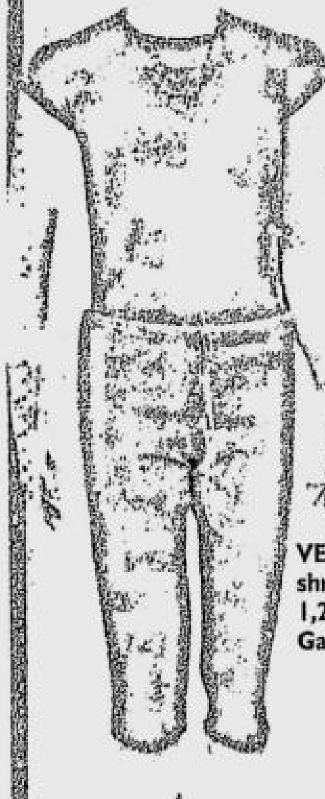
CHOCOLATE Brown stretch dress with pink satin straps and ribbon piping accent 599.75 Sofia

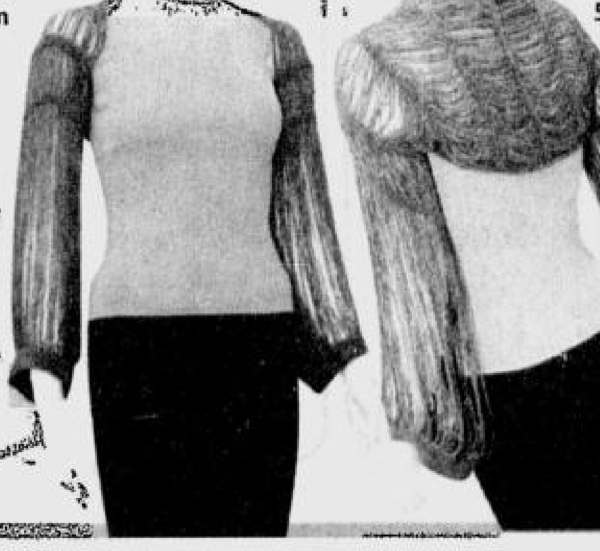
Happy's Picks

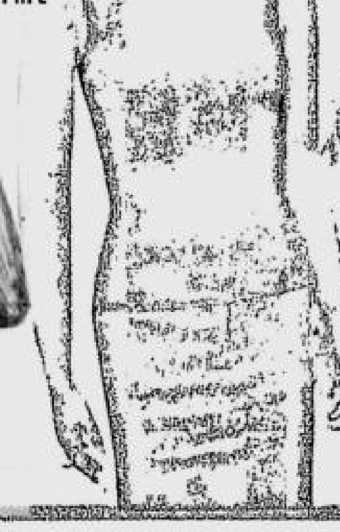
Favorite departments: SM Boutique Square for local designers such as Lulu Tan-Gan and her indispensable knits and Cesar Gaupo and his Shanghai Tang-ed pieces. Cosmetics section for the high ceiling, the lighting and ambiance that keep me in the mood to try all the various brands…
Kultura section for unique local finds. Great for taking along foreigner guests and *balikbayan* friends and relatives
Favorite find: Carved Rose and Buddha Semi-precious stone pendants with chip and silver accents on suede necklace, P529.75, AXXEZZ
Best bargain: Red leatherette belt, P169.75, Alexandria
Must-buys: Lulu Tan Gan Knits
Tips for readers: Always drop by and walk around, even if you're not looking for anything in particular… Most of the stuff you will find outside you can find at SM at better prices and quality. SM doesn't mean just cheap anymore. Just when I thought that the polo tops I bargained for at a bazaar was a steal, I found similar ones at the Surplus Shop at an even better price, and minus the hassle of haggling. Get the SM Advantage Card for only P150. Not only do you earn points that will make you win stuff worth your while but you get discounts too.

RED leatherette belt 169.75, Alexandria; Multi-colored knots on fiber wrap, 399.75


CARVED Rose and Buddha semi-precious stone pendants with chip and silver accents on suede necklace 529.75, AXXEZZ

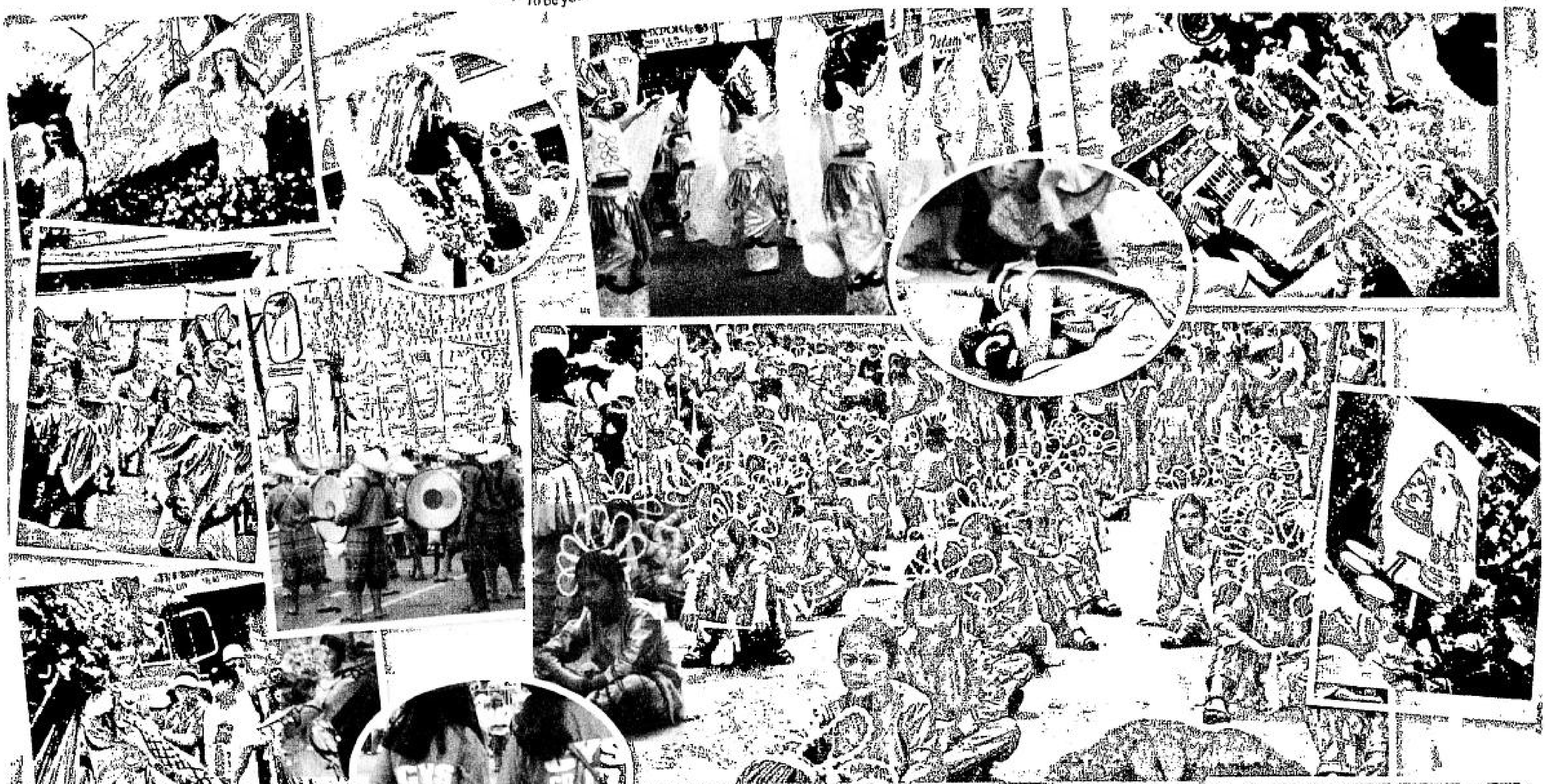

COTTON top 249.75 and Yoga Pants 399.75, 24/7 by Hygeia


VELVET knit shrug, 1,299.75 Tan Gan


SEQUIN and nylon knit cap sleeved turtle neck top 599.75, Flirt

GREEN floral versatile wrap shrug 379.75, Cue Clothing. Also comes in blush pink and powder blue

TWO-piece Racer back cotton knit with inner halter, P279.75, 24/7 by Hygeia



2BU GOES TO THE SINULOG FESTIVAL

PHOTOS WERE TAKEN WITH A CANON POWERSHOT G6

Pit Señor!

The 25th Sinulog Festival was a celebration of dance, color and tradition

Text and photos by Pam Pastor

ON THE EVE of Cebu's big Sinulog parade, the people behind Canon Philippines handed me a Powershot G6, arming me for the event.

I asked for the manual but was given only a smile. "It's very easy to use," they said.

It was. The next day, just minutes into the parade, I was clicking away left and right, capturing the colorful moments of the celebration.

The unyielding sun expressed its desire to join the festivities by scorching the rest of us, but nobody seemed to care. There were people everywhere. Some sat on the sidewalks, on the bleachers and on top of vehicles while others stood around and walked with the parade. Energy was high, everyone seemed tireless.

The parade was a sight for the eyes. Dancers wore elaborate costumes in all hues and shades. Floats were larger than life, including one that was Shrek-themed. There was a memorable giant puppet—I just didn't know if it was E.T., Gollum or Doby the elf from "Harry Potter."

Enthusiastic percussionists and other musicians breathed even more life into the parade. The beats added rhythm to what would otherwise have been us being jostled and pushed by an eager crowd.

At the end of the day, my flip flops were smudged and dirty, my hair resembled a bird's nest and my face was maroon from too much sun exposure. But my lips were pulled into a big smile.

The 25th Sinulog Festival was a celebration of dance, color, tradition, kicked shins and trodden toes—mine.

That evening, I walked into the airport with one thought in my head. Too bad I missed the fireworks.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.

VIVA STO. NIÑ
PROVINCE OF CEBU PHILIPPINES
F-07

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Youth power on Mindoro island

A CHAPTER of the Voice of the Youth (VOTY) Network and Network of Campus Journalists of the Philippines (NCJP) was established in Oriental Mindoro on Nov. 18 at the gym of the Divine Word College (DWCC) in Calapan City.

The event was dubbed "Oriental Mindoro Youth Action Forum."

The VOTY is an organization aiming to empower the Filipino youth.

Emilson A. Goco, regional task force convenor of the National Youth Commission-National Youth Parliament, had earlier asked VOTY founder Pocholo "Choy" Gonzales to establish the chapter in Mindoro.

Together with Rommel Brillantes, chair of VOTY Quirino Province Chapter, and Allan Barcelona, VOTY director, Gonzales inaugurated the chapter amid bad weather due to typhoon Unding.

Welcoming the forum's organizers were Ruel D. Quinzon, Provincial Youth Development Council chair; Rene M. Colocar, DWCC coordinator for research, planning and external affairs; Kathlene Cyrele Cuyas, president of the Oriental Mindoro Sangguniang Kabataan Federation; Emilson A. Goco, NYP regional convenor; Leiffrey Z. Garguilo, editor in chief of the DWCC Gazette; Racquel G. Garcia, associate editor of the Gazette; and Harvey Pinohermoso of DeMolay.

Some 250 youths attended the launching on the next day, Nov. 19. They came from different secondary and tertiary schools in Oriental Mindoro.

"The world is small and life is short. Touch your fellow youth's heart and feel the spirit within you," Choy told the assembly.

He explained said that VOTY was created to nurture the strengths, interests and abilities of young people.

Rommel inspired the participants by sharing his unforgettable memories in the VOTY.

Meanwhile, Ian gave a situationer on the youth and the society. He also introduced the NCJP, which was founded by a young journalist, Lloyd Luna.

The event was highlighted by the election of officers of the chapter.

Emilson A. Goco was appointed as the VOTY chair while Leiffrey Z. Gargullo was elected as the NCJP chair.

The establishment of the chapter is just a beginning, organizers said. The VOTY and the NCJP promised to hold youth-worthwhile activity on the island.

CEU holds annual student pageant

CENTRO Escolar University will hold the Mr. and Ms. CEU 2005 pageant on Jan. 19, 6:30 p.m., at the CEU North Quadrangle.

Eighteen candidates will vie for the two titles. The pageant's coronation night will feature a futuristic motif.

CEU's top placers in various beauty competitions in the previous years include Miss Globe International 2001 Maricar Balagtas and Miss Internet WWW 2002 Margaret-Ann Bayot.

These two beauty queens will join this year's panel of judges , which includes CEU Board Member Tootsy Echauz-Angara, CEU VP for Finance and Corporate Information Officer Patricia B. Echauz, Fashion designers Frederick Peralta and Dennis Lustico, "Wish Ko Lang" executive producer Melo Esguerra, TV director Lino Cayetano and movie/TV director Joel Lamangan.

Mr. and Ms. CEU is an annual search for campus models, emphasizing good values among its contestants. The event is a project of the CEU Student Affairs Office under the leadership of the AVP for Student Affairs Claire Z. Manalo.

Institute for Foreign Study, Inc.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

Session 1: April, May 2005 / group; limited individual
Session 2: June, July 2005 / group; individual

APPLY NOW!! Slots are limited.

Young Learners: 9 to 13 years old
- OXFORD
- FLORIDA

High school –14 to 17/18 years old
College –18 to 24 years old
- CAMBRIDGE
- PARIS
- SPAIN
- JAPAN
- OXFORD
- BRISBANE
- BEIJING
- ITALY

OPEN YOUR WORLD TO ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES...

Be an Exchange Student !!

Now accepting APPLICATIONS...
To qualify, applicants must be:
15 to 18 years old
English proficient
An average grade of 84% and above
Financially capable
Adaptable
In good health

USA or The Netherlands

STUDY ABROAD
MALAYSIA • SINGAPORE
U.S.A. • U.K. • AUSTRALIA
NEW ZEALAND

For further information, contact us:
812-1187 * 812-6229* 0917-817-3723
Suite 820 Cityland 10 Tower, Dela Costa St.,
Ayala North 1226, Makati City
www.ifsphil.net

INSTITUTE FOR FOREIGN STUDY established 1991

Ladies
Julia
nitelites
Julia
Baby & Me
Home Essentials
Men's
B+active
Kids
all about KiDs
G2 COMPANY
PORTSIDE
FOOTLOOSE
Holiday Inn HOTELS RESORTS GALLERIA MANILA
URBANSPA

Robinsons Department Store

Exclusive Labels Sale

Style within your budget

JANUARY 16 to 31

up to 50% off on selected items

Join our raffle promo! For every P300 purchase from any Exclusive Label get a chance to be a Celebrity for a Day

Get a chance to win these other prizes!
- 10 Winners of P5,000 worth of Gift Certificates
- 10 Winners of Urban Spa Gift Certificates

www.rds.com.ph

See mechanics posters & flyers for details
Per DTI-NCR Permit No 6174 Series of 2004

Fashion everyday

Robinsons Galleria Flagship Store
Robinsons Malls | Waltermart Malls | Tutuban Center | Starmall Shaw | Metropolis Star Alabang | Festival Mall Alabang | Nepo Mall Pampanga

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Editor **Louie C. Camino**
Assistant Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

ENTERTAINMENT *Metro*

Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

'The Voice' coming to Manila . . .

RUSSELL Watson's rise to musical stardom, from working as a volt-cutter in a Manchester factory to singing awesome opera pieces before the Pope, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, US President George Bush and dignitaries from various countries, is like most of his songs—inspiring.

On Feb. 10, Filipinos will have a chance to hear the popular British tenor live in a one-night-only concert at the PICC Plenary Hall.

Fresh from the success of his latest album, the defining "Amore Musica" which was launched in the UK in October 2004, Watson will perform in Manila accompanied by the 60-piece San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra and the 40-member San Miguel Choir.

For his concert, Watson will sing his personal favorites from his three double-platinum albums "The Voice," "Encore," "Reprise" and selections from his latest album with soulful and rousing songs like the carrier "Amore Musica," "Gladiotore," "Alchemist," "I Believe" and "You Raise Me Up."

Part of the concert proceeds will go to the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) for the benefit of typhoon victims in Infanta, Quezon, and the worldwide Tsunami Rehabilitation Program.

He used to do Elvis Presley; now Russell Watson is considered an 'heir' to Carrera, Domingo, or Pavarotti

Watson is among the first European artists to answer the call for relief aid in the recent Asian tsunami tragedy. Together with UK artists Sir Cliff Richard, Boy George and Ronan Keating, he agreed to record a charity song for the tsunami victims titled "Grief Never Grows Old," in an effort to generate at least £2 million for the relief fund.

Watson was working as a volt-cutter in a Manchester factory until tough times prodded him to get a second job as a singer in a working men's club, belting songs by Elvis Presley, Neil Diamond. Later, he included classical pieces like Puccini's "Nessun Dorma" in his set.

With such an amazing voice, he pulled a crowd of regulars to the club, including the team manager for UK's mega soccer team Manchester United who invited Watson to sing before games at the Old Trafford sports venue. From the Rugby Union World Cup to the European Cup Final, he became known as "The Voice of Sports." A recording contract followed and the rest, as they say, is history.

Watson's debut album "The Voice" made British classical history, earning double platinum status and broke all chart records when it hit the No. 1 spot in the UK Classical Charts for two weeks, an unprecedented feat in any genre including pop, classical and country music.

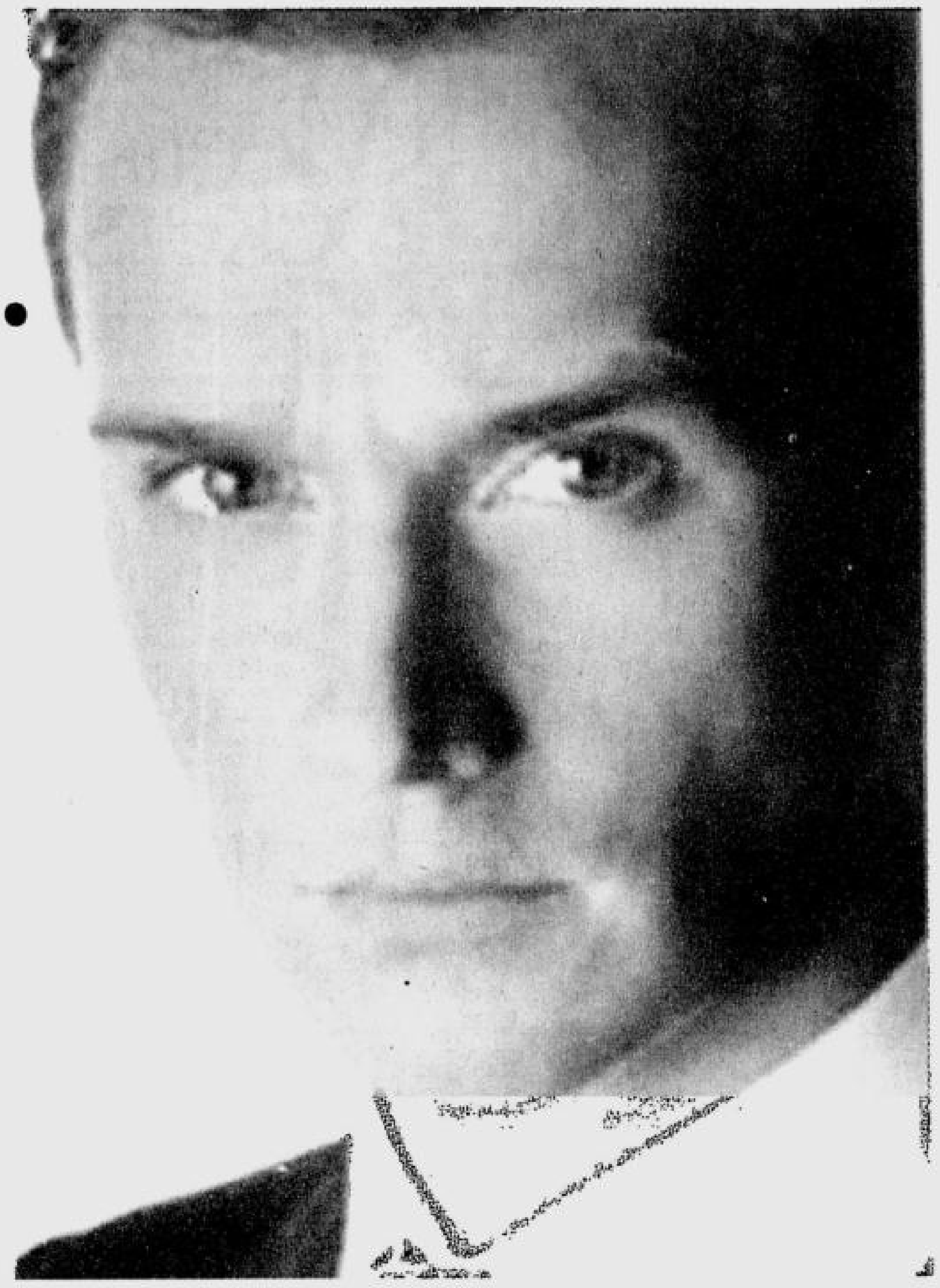
He was also the first British male singer to take the No 1. spot in both the UK and US classical charts simultaneously.

Watson and fellow opera superstars Josh Groban and Alessandro Safina are hailed as the heirs to the thrones of Luciano Pavarotti, Placido Domingo and Jose Carrera.

Some of his numerous awards include Album of the Year, Best-Selling Classical Album and Special Achievement Award in the UK.

The Russell Watson concert is presented by Smart Infinity, Rado of Switzerland, Philippine Tatler, 92.3 Joey and Jaguar as official vehicle.

For ticket inquiries, call Ticketworld at 891-9999.



THE SINGER'S personal favorites from his three albums will comprise the Feb. 10 repertoire

"LADIES of the '80s" will also star Sheena Easton and Tiffany

... and so is '80s dance diva Taylor Dayne

DANCE diva Taylor Dayne has proven to be one of pop music's most successful artists. Her versatile voice has gained recognition in multiple formats from pop, dance, rock to adult contemporary. Her incredible style and abilities have earned her three successful albums including two double platinum and one gold, two sold-out world tours and three Grammy Nominations.

Born on March 7, 1962 in Long Island, New York, Dayne joined her first band called Felony singing rock 'n' roll after graduating from high school.

She also studied Music Theory and Composition in college and also took private classes in Classical Training.

In 1988, Dayne released her debut album "Tell It To My Heart." It was a hit with four songs making it to the USA Top 10 singles namely, "Tell It To My Heart," "Prove Your Love," "I'll Always Love You" and "Don't Rush Me."

In 1989, she released her second album titled "Can't Fight Fate" which carried her first USA No. 1 smash hit "Love Will Lead You Back."

Dayne appeared in numerous movies such as "Love Affair" with Warren Beatty and Annette Bening, as well as guest appearances in the two-year run of the Showtime series "Rude Awakening."

In 2000, she recorded a song titled "Planet Love" for the movie "Flawless." This dance hit topped the Billboard Dance Charts at No. 1.

'I'm so excited… it's going to be hot, hot, hot and cool, cool, cool'

The following year, she made her Broadway debut in "Aida," playing Princess Amneris and got rave reviews for her performances.

Sticking to her guns and relying on her talents, Dayne was able to secure a place in the normally transient dance-pop market and became an '80s biggie.

Now she is poised for a strong comeback as she appears on the new VH1 reality series "Remaking," where musical stars with past histories are re-styled and paired with current hot, young producers to create what could be a new hit song.

"(The show) is music-generated, and they've partnered me with Rodney Jerkins," Dayne says. "It was kind of like a boot camp; you hear the song, you record it, all in three weeks. It's not like sitting down with the producer. But this may be the vehicle, and it is certainly worth the risk of having them follow me around for a month."

She has also been recording songs with Mike Mangini, who helped pop/rock singer Joss Stone break through, in preparation for her new CD and her new look, which she will premiere on "The View," an Emmy Award-winning daytime talk show in the US.

"I'm so excited with this because I'll be launching a new single that's guaranteed to be hot, hot, hot and cool, cool, cool," Dayne adds. "I've got a lot riding on this new material."

Describing her sound as pop-ish but philosophical, the dance diva believes that her sound has evolved through the years. There's still a hint of the classic '80s, but performed with her trademark big, powerful voice. Her music, indeed, still has a place in an industry dominated by newbies who thrive in the magic of packaging.

"I believe I still have what it takes to wow a crowd," she says. "I leave it to the fans to discern it, and eventually support my gig. I'm just being true to myself, with my music. When the audience hears something good, they'll know it. I believe in my voice."

All things '80s seem to be making a strong comeback this fresh year.

On Feb. 11 and 12, Taylor Dayne joins forces with '80s divas Sheena Easton and Tiffany in a musical extravaganza titled "Ladies of the '80s" at the Araneta Coliseum. On Feb. 14, they will perform at the Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City. The show is produced by Viva Concerts. Tickets are available at SM Ticketnet outlets.

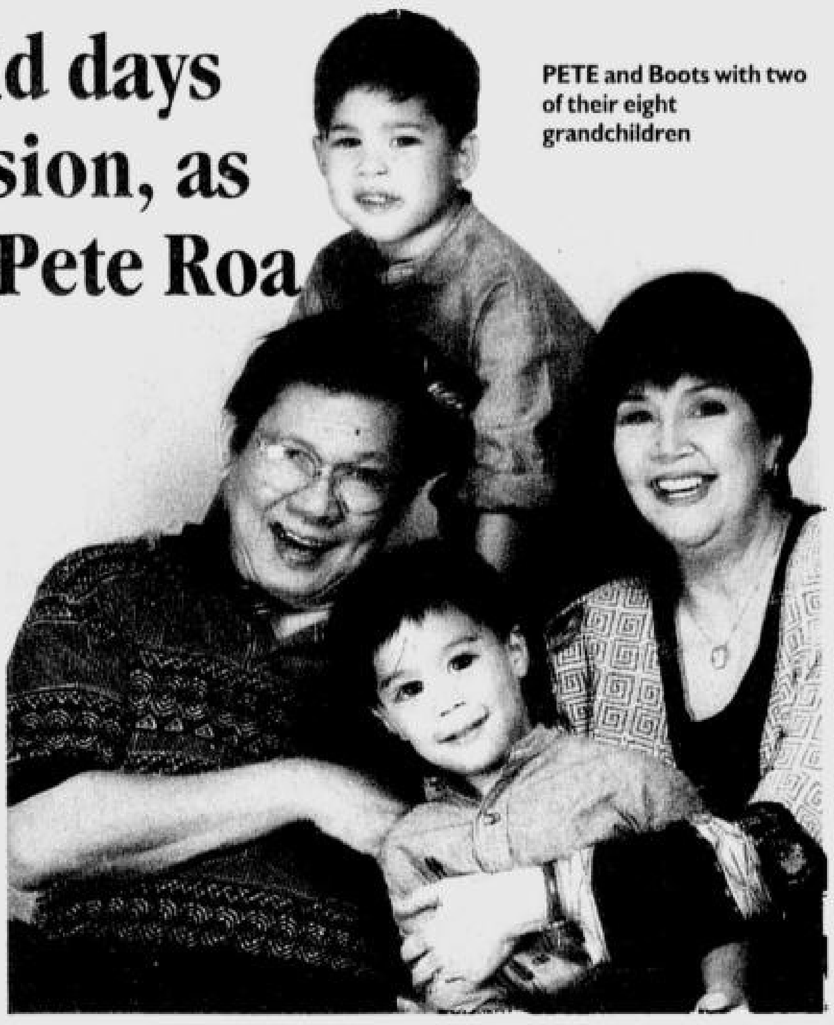
WHAT'S INSIDE

The good old days of RP television, as recalled by Pete Roa / PAGE 2

Turning 60 and proud of it / PAGE 3

From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper:
INQUIRER
JOBMarket ONLINE
VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com

The good old days of RP television, as recalled by Pete Roa



PETE and Boots with two of their eight grandchildren

By Pablo Tariman
Contributor

EVERYTHING about the 1960s is still etched in Pete Roa's mind.

It was the decade he met Boots Anson, the decade he married her, the decade he became a father. As far as the electronic medium was concerned, it was the finest decade of radio and television.

Noontime TV shows included Broadway and opera ("Sunday Sweet Sunday," starring Fides Cuyugan-Asensio and Jimmy Melendrez). There were no feminine napkin and underwear commercials. And female talk show hosts would never discuss their love affairs on the air. Certainly, they would never—horror of horrors—announce having contracted venereal disease.

"In my time," Pete told Inquirer Entertainment, "no one used the airwaves to wash their dirty linen in public. It is a shame that this practice gets very high ratings. They leave a bad taste in the mouth."

Crazy world

Pete knows whereof he speaks because he has worked in and out of television and known the best rewards and worst consequences of being—in his own words—in the crazy world of broadcast media.

He was a college senior and deeply involved in theater at the Far Eastern University when, with a friend, he visited Channel 5. While there, he made observations on how to improve the shows.

The program manager overheard, and quickly took him in as apprentice. He soon became all-around productions man and, before he knew it, he was hosting a show called "Dance O Rama," with Baby O'Brien.

'60s piracy

Oh yes, piracy was already at its peak during the '60s.

The Lopezes, who owned ABS-CBN, already had Channels 2 and 9 while the Elizaldes had Channel 11.

With the success of "Dance O Rama" on Channel 5, Baby O'Brien was promptly pirated by Channel 2, leaving Pete without a female co-host.

This paved the way for the entrance of Boots Anson, who took O'Brien's place.

Pete and Boots became very close, but Channel 2 also pirated Pete, leaving Boots this time without a fixed male co-host.

So what happened when Pete and Boots eloped without warning and got married without fanfare?

"Dance O Rama" on Channel 5 and the "Baby O'Brien Show" on Channel 2 folded. "That, because the shows lost their romantic flavor," revealed Pete. "The shows were supposed to be for young people. I suppose we lost our youthful appeal."

At the time of their wedding, Boots was only 18 and Pete, 23.

Eventually, Boots bolted Channel 5 and moved to Channel 2.

Over at ABS-CBN, Pete had his finest moments on television.

He directed the first television broadcast of the first Philippine visit of Russia's premier dance company, the Bolshoi Ballet. He directed the first Filipino *zarzuela* ("Walang Sugat") aired on television, the first kiddie show ("Romper Room") and the first motorbike Grand Prix aired on Philippine television.

Awards galore

"We were getting awards right and left during awards season," said Pete. "But, in due time, I was reminded: It was nice to get awards but it was much better if ratings went with the trophies. Now, this is the biggest predicament of program managers who promote quality programming. You get quality patronage but lose the overall ratings game. But [critical recognition] was nice—a chance to do what you think was right and good for televiewers."

The other TV programs Pete was identified with either as program producer or director were "Two for the Road," later directed by Nestor Torre; the noontime variety "Stop, Look and Listen," and the political telethon "Alis Diyan."

When he watches Philippine television these days, Pete is convinced there is nothing new. Everything is a rehash of old programs, he said, given new production "icing," with new hosts and new formats.

No scandals

But during his time, there were no programs like "The Buzz" or "StarTalk."

There were no show biz scandals, and the closest that movie stars got to chatting on TV was in the late '70s, on "Seeing Stars with Joe Quirino."

Was there anything good about living, loving and working in the '60s?

"*Mas tahimik noon* (It was more quiet)," Pete admitted. "Audiences took to ballet and *zarzuela* on television with some enthusiasm. The music was good, people were less complicated. It was the best time to live and love and work."

(Pete Roa will be given a special tribute for his contribution to the broadcast media in a special show called "For Pete's Sake" at Merk's Bar Bistro tonight. For inquiries, call 757-4720 or cell phone no. 09177052250.)

SM CINEMA movietime
moviepickoftheWeek
Robert DeNiro Ben Stiller Dustin Hoffman Barbra Streisand Blythe Danner Teri Polo

WE'VE *MET HER PARENTS*, now let's
Meet the Fockers
Solar Entertainment Corporation

OPENS THIS WEEK

UNO
Subject to MTRCB RATING
Now Showing at:
SM Megamall • Sta.Mesa • Tutuban Fairview • Manila • Sucat • Bicutan North Edsa • Southmall • Bacoor Pampanga • Dasmariñas

MEET THE FOCKERS
MTRCB RATING: PG13
Now Showing at:
SM Megamall • Sta.Mesa Tutuban • Fairview • Manila Sucat • North Edsa • Bicutan Southmall

WHITE NOISE
Subject to MTRCB RATING
Now Showing at:
SM Megamall • Sta.Mesa Tutuban • Fairview • Manila Sucat • North Edsa • Bicutan Southmall • Cebu

AN SM CINEMA EXCLUSIVE
SALSA
MTRCB RATING: PG13
Now Showing at:
SM Megamall • North Edsa

NOW SHOWING

THE PODIUM CINEMA
For Seat Reservation, call 633 8976
LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
1 MEET THE FOCKERS
2 WHITE NOISE

METRO MANILA

sm megamall
1 MEET THE FOCKERS
2 SALSA
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 OCEAN'S TWELVE
5 MAD HOUSE
6 IN SEARCH OF AN IMPOTENT MAN
7 MEET THE FOCKERS
8 RAISE YOUR VOICE
9 WHITE NOISE
10 BLADE TRINITY
11 UNO
12 ENTENG KABISOTE

sm city fairview
1 SIGAW
2 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
3 IN SEARCH OF AN IMPOTENT MAN
4 BLADE TRINITY
5 MEET THE FOCKERS
6 UNO
7 WHITE NOISE
8 KUNG FU HUSTLE
9 OCEAN'S TWELVE
10 NATIONAL TREASURE
11 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
12 ENTENG KABISOTE

sm city manila
1 MEET THE FOCKERS
2 BLADE TRINITY
3 MAD HOUSE
4 KUNG FU HUSTLE
5 RAISE YOUR VOICE
6 OCEAN'S TWELVE
7 UNO
8 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
9 ENTENG KABISOTE
10 IN SEARCH OF AN IMPOTENT MAN
11 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
12 WHITE NOISE

sm city sta. mesa
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 UNO
3 MEET THE FOCKERS
4 RAISE YOUR VOICE
5 OCEAN'S TWELVE
6 MEET THE FOCKERS
7 KUNG FU HUSTLE
8 NATIONAL TREASURE
9 WHITE NOISE
10 IN SEARCH OF AN IMPOTENT MAN

sm city southmall
1 WHITE NOISE
2 KUNG FU HUSTLE
3 BLADE TRINITY
4 MEET THE FOCKERS
5 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
6 RAISE YOUR VOICE
7 UNO
8 OCEAN'S TWELVE
9 ENTENG KABISOTE
10 MEET THE FOCKERS

sm city north edsa
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 KUNG FU HUSTLE
3 MAD HOUSE
4 OCEAN'S TWELVE
5 SALSA
6 UNO
7 MEET THE FOCKERS
8 WHITE NOISE

sm cinema tutuban
1 MEET THE FOCKERS
2 WHITE NOISE
3 UNO
4 MAD HOUSE

sm supercenter sucat
1 UNO
2 KUNG FU HUSTLE
3 MEET THE FOCKERS
4 WHITE NOISE

sm city bicutan
1 MEET THE FOCKERS
2 UNO
3 WHITE NOISE
4 KUNG FU HUSTLE

Movies are subject to change without prior notice · For complete movie schedules, visit [illegible]

CALL!
DIAL 833-9999 FOR INFORMATION AND MOVIE LISTINGS, MTRCB RATINGS AND SCREENING SCHEDULES.

SURF!
VISIT US AT www.smcinema.com FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA.

Robert DeNiro Ben Stiller Dustin Hoffman Barbra Streisand Blythe Danner Teri Polo
Meet the Fockers
Misery loves family
MTRCB Rating PG13

Meet my Family!
Photo and Essay Contest
When was the last time you had your family reunion? Share with us how your recent family reunion went and enclose a picture of that memorable event with a brief description.
Send your entries to movieaddicts_smcinema@yahoo.com or this address:
PAGESHOP DESIGN & COMMUNICATIONS
Unit 709 Quadrillion Mansion,
N.Domingo cor. M. Paterno, San Juan,
Metro Manila 1500
Get a chance to win "Meet the Fockers" T-Shirts and magnets!
Promo runs from January 19-30, 2005
Solar Entertainment Corporation
Now Showing at SM Cinemas!

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
Telephone: 633.2227 / 633.7851 loc. 171
PREMIERE THEATRE
(DOLBY) KUNG FU HUSTLE PG13
1 (DOLBY) MEET THE FOCKERS PG13
2 (DOLBY) MEET THE FOCKERS PG13
3 (DOLBY) WHITE NOISE PG13
4 (DOLBY) OCEAN'S TWELVE PG13

SUPER CINERAMA isetann
CINERAMA COMPLEX RECTO tel 733.4238
1. (DOLBY) BAD SIGAW
2. AISHITE IMASU 1941
3. HAPPY TOGETHER
4. SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
5. ENTENG KABISOTE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 (SDDS) RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DOLBY) RESERVE
7 (DTS) RESERVE
8 RESERVE
9 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
2 PANAGHOY SA SUBA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) HUBAD NA MULTO
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 HELLWOLF
4 (DTS) OUT OF REACH

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) IMPOTENT MAN
2 (SDDS) KUNG FU HUSTLE
3 (DTS) OCEAN'S TWELVE
4 GOLD (DTS) OCEAN'S TWELVE
5 GOLD (DOLBY) BLADE TRINITY
6 GOLD (SDDS) KUNG FU HUSTLE
7 GOLD (DOLBY) RAISE YOUR VOICE
8 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
9 NANG NACK
10 GEORGE & THE DRAGON

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 KUNG FU HUSTLE
2 BLADE TRINITY
3 IMPOTENT MAN

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 ENTENG KABISOTE
2 AFTER THE SUNSET
3 MANO PO
4 OCEAN'S TWELVE

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 (DOLBY) PANAGHOY SA SUBA
2 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) MEET THE FOCKERS
2 (DOLBY) MEET THE FOCKERS
3 (DOLBY) KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 (DOLBY) WHITE NOISE

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT Araneta Center
ALI MALL CINEPLEX
Tel. 911-3101 loc. 8242 / 8281 / 8397
1 (Dolby) MEET THE FOCKERS
2 (SDDS) WHITE NOISE
3 (DTS) BLADE: TRINITY
4 (Dolby) UNO
5 (Dolby) KUNG FU HUSTLE

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) BLADE TRINITY
5 ENTENG KABISOTE

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 NANGNAK
2 KALABIT
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 ENTENG KABISOTE
5 (DOLBY) BLADE TRINITY
6 OCEAN'S TWELVE

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Turning 60, Boots Anson-Roa looks back with contentment

SHE has never doubted that she's "one of God's favorites."

BOOTS Anson-Roa turns 60 on Jan. 30—happily, proudly.

The multi-awarded movie, TV, radio, and movie personality, a professor at the Ateneo, La Salle and University of the Philippines, executive director of Mowelfund, broadcast and film industry leader, director of industry-based NGOs, writer and public speaker, wife of 40 years to Pete Roa, "ex-future senator" (as she good-humoredly refers to herself), mother of four and grandmother of eight, has this to say about entering her sixth decade: "Like my father, Oscar Moreno, often said, we are blessed *dahil may pinagkatandaan tayo* (we have something to show for it)."

Her years have certainly been lived well, in fact many of them "lived for others."

Workaholic

A confirmed workaholic and public servant, Boots firmly believes that it is "better to wear out than to rust out."

Considering her taxing workload and the grueling hours she keeps, she has little to complain about as far as her health is concerned.

"Knowing that we have uplifted others' lives is the best vitamin and energizer," she explains. She certainly has an ample supply of that.

Boots was trained at the Assumption Convent, where she was an honor student in elementary and high school, to manage time well. This came handy when she went to the University of the Philippines as a scholar and became a campus leader. In 1963, while she was a senior AB Speech and Drama major and president of the UP Women's Club, she was discovered for Channel 5's "Dance-O-Rama," to co-host with Pete Roa.

On June 5, 1964, they were married.

Eleven of the 40 years they've been together were spent in Washington, DC, where Boots first worked as an attaché at the Philippine Embassy, and where Pete managed a Filipino restaurant.

There the couple and their children experienced thoroughly non-celebrity lives. In fact, when Pete and Boots eventually had to move to other jobs, they had to do the "normal" route of CVs and interviews.

Coming home

In 1993, Pete decided to come home to the Philippines when his parents became sickly. For Boots at that point, it meant leaving a flourishing career in banking and NGO management as executive director of the 3,000-member Association of Philippine Physicians in America.

At age 48, even before she set foot back in the homeland, Boots had offers for three movies, seven television shows, and three major product endorsements.

Heaven-sent

She has not been without work since in the entertainment industry, on or off screen.

After Pete's stroke in 1997, her father's lingering illness and eventual demise last year, and now, her son Joey's acute renal failure, Boots has taken on the additional role of caregiver. Never one to ask "Why?" she declares that all these are "heaven-sent," because she is "one of God's favorites."

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
BEST CINEMA FOR 2004
PDI's YEAREND READERS SURVEY
For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	MEET THE FOCKERS 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40 PG-13	
2	MEET THE FOCKERS 11:30, 2:10, 4:50 7:30, 10:10 PG-13	
3	KUNG FU HUSTLE 11:00, 1:25, 3:50 6:15, 8:40, 11:00 PG-13	
4	WHITE NOISE 11:00, 1:25, 3:50 6:15, 8:40, 11:00 GP	

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

RAISE YOUR VOICE GP 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10	OCEAN'S TWELVE PG13 11:40,2:10,4:40,7:10,9:40	BLADE 3: TRINITY R13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:20
KUNG FU HUSTLE PG13 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:05	OCEAN'S TWELVE PG13 1:20,3:50,6:20,8:50	OCEAN'S TWELVE PG13 12:30,3:00,5:30,8:00,10:30

Araneta Center
LEISURE GUIDE
For All Inquiries : Pls. Call TicketNet 911-5555

GATEWAY CINEPLEX 10
The First and Only Real Cineplex in the Philippines!
ADMISSION: P99 (Free Seating) P120 (Reserved Seats)
ALL THEATERS DOLBY DIGITAL EX ULTRA SOUND, FULL STADIUM SEATING, GUARANTEED SEATS, NO STANDING ROOM.
Gateway CINEPLEX*10
Level 4, Gateway Mall
NOW SHOWING
MEET THE FOCKERS
WHITE NOISE
MADHOUSE
OCEAN'S TWELVE
KUNG FU HUSTLE
BLADE : TRINITY
FAHRENHEIT 9/11

ALI MALL CINEMAS
1 Dolby MEET THE FOCKERS
2 SDDS WHITE NOISE
3 dts BLADE: TRINITY
4 Dolby UNO
5 Dolby KUNG FU HUSTLE

GATEWAY MALL
LIVE BAND! COOL JAZZ, COOL CLASSICS
Every Friday & Saturday 7:30 pm to 11:00 pm

ARAÑETA COLISEUM

Jan. 19	PBA PHILIPPINE CUP GRAN MATADOR WILDCARD PLAYOFFS
Jan. 21	
Jan. 29	Martin Nievera & Patti Austin Concert

NEW FIESTA CARNIVAL
OPEN: Tuesday to Saturday 4 PM to 10 PM
Sunday & Holiday 2 PM to 10 PM

star group of cinemas movie guide
IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

starmall EDSA-SHAW Tel. No. 726.61.50	METROPOLIS ALABANG star Tel. No. 850.42.85	starmall LAS PIÑAS Tel. No. 873.50.04
3 Kung Fu Hustle	1 Panaghoy sa Suba	1 Enteng Kabisote
4 Blade 3	2 Kalabit	2 Panaghoy sa Suba
5 Oceans 12	3 Kung Fu Hustle	
	4 Enteng Kabisote	
	5 Blade 3	
	6 Oceans 12	

Everyday Family Day! @ Metropolis Cinema Get Free Toms World Tokens for every ticket purchase
For movie schedules visit www.clickthecity.com

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 WHITE NOISE PG13
CINEMA 2 MEET THE FOCKERS PG13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM JANUARY 7,2005 GARY V. - "WAVE OF HOPE" 8:00PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

SHANG CINEPLEX
① MEET THE FOCKERS
FS 10:40AM, 1:10PM, 3:40PM, 6:10PM, LMF 8:40PM (PG - 13)
② MEET THE FOCKERS
FS 12:00PM, 2:30PM, 5:00PM, 7:30PM, LMF 10:00PM (PG - 13)
③ WHITE NOISE
FS 12:20PM, 2:45PM, 5:10PM, 7:35PM, LMF 10:00PM (PG-13)
④ OCEAN'S TWELVE
FS 11:20PM, 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM, LMF 10:00PM (PG - 13)
PREMIERE THEATRE KUNG FU HUSTLE
FS 12:20PM, 2:45PM, 5:10PM, 7:35PM, LMF 10:00P (PG-13)
MOVIES & SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
A Blockbuster Gift for All Seasons
The Shang Cineplex Gift Certificates
Treat your family and friends to a thrilling movie experience only at the Shang. Call 633-2227 or 633-7851 loc. 171 for inquiries and reservations.
Cinema Treats - for Cinemas 1, 2, 3 and 4
Premier Rewards - for the Premier Theatre
Regular Ticket Price
Premiere Theatre - P295
(includes unlimited popcorn and beverage)
Cinemas 1 to 4 - P150
Shangri-La Plaza

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE
MOVIEWORLD
CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES
www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

• METRO MANILA CINEMAS •

GALLERIA	632-9115/16
1 MEET THE FOCKERS • THX	6 OCEAN'S TWELVE
2 MEET THE FOCKERS	7 BATHHOUSE
3 WHITE NOISE	8 MAD HOUSE
4 KUNG FU HUSTLE	9 RAISE YOUR VOICE
5 BLADE TRINITY	10 IN SEARCH OF AN IMPOTENT MAN

ERMITA	538-7809 to 12
1 MEET THE FOCKERS	
2 MAD HOUSE	5 WHITE NOISE
3 BLADE TRINITY	6 RESERVE
4 OCEAN'S TWELVE	7 KUNG FU HUSTLE

METRO EAST	682-8193/99 • 682-8280
1 TWO BROTHERS	5 MEET THE FOCKERS
2 RAISE YOUR VOICE	6 WHITE NOISE
3 BLADE TRINITY	7 MAD HOUSE
4 OCEAN'S TWELVE	8 KUNG FU HUSTLE

NOVALICHES	935-3229/31
1 MEET THE FOCKERS	5 OCEAN'S TWELVE
2 BLADE TRINITY	6 WHITE NOISE
3 RAISE YOUR VOICE	7 MAD HOUSE
4 KUNG FU HUSTLE	8 IN SEARCH OF AN IMPOTENT MAN

CHECK THIS OUT ▸▸

From the makers of DUDA/DOUBT Grupong Sinehan Inc. comes another Crisaldo Pablo's digital movie about love and relationship.
Starring: Jet Alcantara, Andoy Ranay, Rey Pumaloy, John Lapus intoducing Ray An Dulay
JANUARY 19
MTRCB Rating: R-18 exclusively at Robinsons Movieworld GALLERIA

PIONEER	687-5378
1 MEET THE FOCKERS	3 BLADE TRINITY
2 WHITE NOISE	4 OCEAN'S TWELVE

Citisquare MALABON	288-0985 / 2575
1 OCEAN'S TWELVE	3 MAD HOUSE
2 BLADE TRINITY	4 KUNG FU HUSTLE

CAINTA	240-4661
1 BLADE TRINITY	3 OCEAN'S TWELVE
2 MEET THE FOCKERS	4 KUNG FU HUSTLE

MOVIE PASS
MOVIE PASS
MOVIE PASS

The Perfect Gift All Year Round
A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.
Get Special discounts for volume purchases!
For marketing and events/reservations please call:
Marketing Services Department at 687-7945 to 47 locals 14 and 15

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

EVEN SO, the light comedy with a heavyweight cast—Dustin Hoffman, Robert De Niro, Blythe Danner, Ben Stiller, Teri Polo (in photo) and Barbra Streisand—has earned $230.8 in four weeks

'Coach Carter' ends reign of 'Fockers'

SAMUEL L. JACKSON plays the title role in the movie based on a true story

SAMUEL L. Jackson scored the first hit movie of the year at the North American box office on Sunday with the basketball drama "Coach Carter," which ended the three-week reign of "Meet the Fockers."

Jennifer Garner dropped the first bomb of the year with her superheroine saga "Elektra," which opened at No. 5 amid withering reviews.

Tight race

Two other top-10 debutantes were in a tight race for the Nos. 3 and 4 slots, with the new family movie "Racing Stripes" narrowly besting the Dennis Quaid comedy-drama "In Good Company," which entered its first weekend of wide release.

According to studio estimates issued on Sunday, "Coach Carter" (Paramount) sold $23.6 million worth of tickets in the three days beginning Jan. 14, followed by "Fockers" (Universal) with $19 million.

"Elektra" (20th Century Fox) came in with about $12.5 million. Even Halle Berry's unloved "Catwoman" did better, opening to $16.7 million last July.

"It was a little softer than I would have hoped," said Bruce Snyder, president of domestic theatrical distribution at the News Corp.-owned studio. His target was $15 million.

The movie, based on a Marvel Comics character introduced in 2003's similarly underwhelming "Daredevil," was budgeted in the mid-$30 million range, Snyder added. "X-Files" veteran Rob Bowman directed.

JENNIFER GARNER comes in fifth as "Elektra"

By contrast, Paramount executives got more than they expected with "Coach Carter," which cost about $30 million to make. The Viacom Inc.-owned studio would have been happy with a $20 million start, said Wayne Lewellen, president of domestic distribution.

"Coach Carter," based on a true story, stars Jackson as a hoops coach who raises a storm by pulling his star players from the local competition so that they can focus on improving their anemic high school grades. Paramount released the film in conjunction with its corporate sibling MTV Films.

Notwithstanding its sports theme, the film pulled in slightly more women than men, thanks to an extensive marketing campaign that accentuated its inspirational story, Paramount executives said. Exit polls showed that more than 90 percent of viewers would definitely recommend it, the studio said.

Namesake

If estimates hold, "Coach Carter" will rank as the second-best opener for the three-day portion of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend, according to tracking firm Exhibitor Relations. "Along Came Polly" set the record last year with $27.7 million, while 2001's "Save the Last Dance" currently holds the No. 2 slot with a $23.4 million bow. Final data for the holiday weekend will be released on Tuesday.

"Coach Carter" was directed by Thomas Carter (no kin), who also helmed "Save the Last Dance."

"Racing Stripes" (Warner Bros.) sold about $14 million worth of tickets. The film revolves around a zebra (voiced by Frankie Muniz) who thinks he is a race horse. It uses real animals, computer technology and animatronic doubles, as well as the voices of Dustin Hoffman and Whoopi Goldberg. The opening was on target, said Dan Fellman, president of distribution at the Time Warner Inc.-owned studio.

Three cities

"In Good Company" (Universal) followed with $13.9 million, having played in just three cities for the past two weeks.

Quaid stars as a downsized executive who must answer to a new boss half his age (Topher Grace). Scarlett Johansson also stars. The film's total stands at $14.4 million.

Universal executives said the film's expansion exceeded expectations, and it outperformed the recent expansions of such entries as "The Aviator" and "The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou." Directed by Paul Weitz ("About A Boy"), "In Good Company" cost about $23 million to make.

Universal's "Fockers," meanwhile, has earned $230.8 million after four weekends in release. The studio, a unit of General Electric Co.-controlled NBC Universal, partnered on "Fockers" with closely held DreamWorks SKG. *Reuters*

Coming soon, 'Fear Factor' theme park

LOS ANGELES—Apparently fear is not a factor when it comes to melding a TV reality show with a theme park attraction.

An audience-participation show based on the NBC show "Fear Factor" will open in May at the Universal Studios theme parks in Hollywood and Orlando, Florida, the company said.

The "Fear Factor Live" show is an example of the kind of corporate "synergy" resulting from NBC's purchase of Universal in 2003. The deal combined the television network with Universal's movie studio, cable channels and theme parks.

"We've always looked at 'Fear Factor' as kind of a theme park ride on television," NBC Universal Television Group chief Jeff Zucker said. "It made sense to extend that brand into the theme parks."

'We are going to put guests in situations where they will come face to face with nasty, weird stuff'

The attraction will pit theme park guests against each other in a series of extreme stunts that will replicate the physical and culinary challenges seen on the TV series, the company said.

The exact nature of the stunts has not been disclosed, although participants could be hung from harnesses and challenged to eat unappetizing concoctions, the company said. But contestants will not eat live bugs, as they do on TV.

"We worked closely with the producers of the TV show to come up with a slate of stunts and challenges," said Scott Trowbridge, executive vice president of creative development at Universal Parks and Resorts.

"We are going to put our guests in situations where they will come face to face with nasty, weird stuff," he said. "Are we going to go as gross as the show? No. But you don't have to resort to live bugs to test people's limits."

The attraction will be held in a theater that holds about 1,800 people. Six people will be chosen to compete while other audience members will be given roles, such as shooting water or air at contestants or controlling some of the obstacles on stage.

Several shows will be held throughout the day, including shows featuring entire families, couples, twins and other combinations. Winners will receive prizes and some contestants may be given the chance to appear in the NBC show, Trowbridge said.

Morphing a TV show into a theme park ride has been done before. The Walt Disney Co. turned the ABC quiz show "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" into a live audience participation show at some of its parks.

And Universal has led the way when it comes to turning movies such as "Backdraft" and "Shrek" into theme park attractions.

So far, NBC has no plans to turn any of its other shows into theme park attractions, although all options are open.

"If this one works, maybe someone will be saying 'You're fired' at a theme park," Zucker joked, referring to the Donald Trump show "The Apprentice." *AP*

As adult as Robin Williams could get, and it really wasn't very much

BEVERLY HILLS, California—Robin Williams zinged the Hollywood Foreign Press Association while accepting a career achievement award from the group known for throwing one of Hollywood's booziest bashes.

It's not as if the group could have expected anything less from the manic comic that director Mike Nichols described as "surely not of this Earth."

In serious parlance, Williams received the Cecil B. DeMille Award Sunday for his "outstanding contribution to the entertainment field." It was as grown-up as he got all night.

Williams recalled attending his first HFPA news conference and wondering who the people at the buffet were.

"Those are the Hollywood Foreign Press," he said as the Globes audience howled.

"At that time, a long time ago, they all had day jobs. I guess things have changed. I'd like to thank also the Hollywood Foreign Press for having an open bar. This makes this evening go kind of well."

Williams riffed on the famous faces in the ballroom, saying, "I'd also want to thank you for having Prince, William Shatner, Puff Daddy and Mick Jagger on the same stage. That is the sign of the apocalypse."

Enough of 'Popeye'

He mocked the Hollywood Foreign Press for its "lovely Star Trek musical set" as the camera cut away to the glitzy ceiling of the Beverly Hilton ballroom.

Williams singled out a HFPA member he called Dora, who despite the quality of whatever movie he was promoting, would always ask him, "How are *da* kids?" Then he introduced his two sons and one daughter.

Clutching the Globe trophy, Williams thanked the group for "the little nippily thing on top."

Williams sat pensively through clips of his career, including his breakthrough role on the ABC TV comedy "Mork and Mindy" and movies like "Popeye," "Good Morning, Vietnam," "The Birdcage," "Mrs. Doubtfire" and "Good Will Hunting."

"I was just going, 'That's enough of 'Popeye.' Thank you," he said backstage. "That was very humbling. 'Popeye' is a wonderful movie if you run it backwards."

Asked later how he could rib the group who gave him its award, Williams said, "I know I'll see them again. I've known them for 27 years. It's like my extended weird family. It's nice that they acknowledge comedy."

Williams only turned serious when he dedicated the award to his late friend Christopher Reeve, who died in September at age 52 of complications from a bedsore after spending nine years as a quadriplegic.

"I think he's still here," he said. "He was such a presence. He's family. It was great knowing him."

Williams, 53, joked that he picked up the night's only award without any suspense.

"It's nice to get it when you can actually remember what you've done," he said. "It's great to have it and know you're getting it." *AP*

CECIL B. DeMille Award for lifetime achievement: from Mindy's "Mork" to "Jakob the Liar" and beyond